

BIBLE STUDY: LESSON 27

Scripture of Lesson: John 15: 1~17

1. Christ as the true vine

- a. Vineyard: one of the blessings God promised to Israel in the Promised Land. Joshua 24: 13 *“And I have given you a land for which ye did not labor and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them. Of the vineyards and olive yards which ye planted not do ye eat.”*
- b. V. 1 *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.”* Jesus likens Himself humbly as a living plant whose living and growth depend on His Father.
- c. V. 2 There are many branches in the vine of Christ – denominations/ churches/ individual Christians. They are expected to bear fruits of the Spirit.
- d. V. 3 These branches of the vine are cleansed through the Word, nourished from the vine by being attached to the vine. V. 5 *“for without me ye can do nothing”* – our dependence on Christ. Let us remember our spiritual growth is not from our own strength or intelligence but from Christ.

2. Our sustenance, bearing fruits and joy

- a. We bear fruits by abiding in Christ—in word [v. 7], in love [v.9] and in keeping His commandment [v. 10].
- b. The fruits that we bear are of Christ as grapes of a branch are of the vine it is attached. Our fruits glorify God the Father and we are identified as Disciples of Christ [v. 8].
- c. When we bear fruits, they bring joy to the heart of Christ and our joy becomes full [v. 11], like the joy of a vineyard owner in times of great harvests.
- d. Let us share stories of experiencing joy in our Christian journey.

3. Christ as our friend

- a. In the human relationship Christ invited His disciples to be His “friends,” rather than disciples or servant.
- b. V 15: *“I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard of My Father, I have made known unto you.”*
- c. II Chron 20:7 *“Abraham God’s friend”*; Exo 33: 11 *“Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”* Acts 13: 22 *“I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, who shall fulfill all My will.”*
- d. We also have the privilege of becoming friends of Christ –by drawing close to Him daily, being faithful to His call and loving Him as He has loved us.