

Poynton Parish Church March 2015

Home Group Notes 7

Jesus is the vine

Introduction

As Jesus claimed to be the way, the truth and the life, he now expands what that life is like in the time he is to be away from them.

1. If you were to invent an 'I am' saying about yourself, what would it be? Eg I'm a teapot, I'm a curate's egg, etc.
2. The vine is a picture used significantly in the Old Testament.
Read Psalm 80:8-19, Isaiah 5:1-7, Jeremiah 2:21, Isaiah 27:2-6
How is the vine used to tell the story of Israel and Judah?
How is it used to point to the promise of future hope?
3. **Read John 15:1** How might Jesus' Old Testament reading followers have understood his claim?
4. **Read John 15:2-4** Do you know much about vine cultivation?
5. cutting off every branch which does not bear fruit
 pruning every branch which does bear fruit
 Remaining in the vine
What might these principles mean in practice for Christians?
What is the role of the Word in the work of cultivation?
6. **Read John 15:5-8** God wants us to bear fruit to glorify him. How?
How is 'remaining in Jesus' and 'his words remaining in you' connected to prayer and being disciples of Jesus? What does Jesus say happens to those of us who do not remain in him?
7. What impact do these verses make on your attitude to God's word and your opportunities to receive it and do it?
8. **Read John 15:9-11** These verses help us apply the vine metaphor to ourselves. Remaining in Jesus seems to be about Jesus loving us as the Father has loved him, and remaining in that love. What sort of love is this? Are you remaining in that type of love?
9. Remaining in Jesus' love is tied to obeying his commands. Are you remaining in his love by obeying what The Lord says? How have you changed your life and your choices in response to Jesus' commands in recent times?
10. How is remaining in Jesus' love and keeping his commands a thing of joy and a thing of completion?
11. Why would this teaching have been particularly helpful to the disciples in the following days? How is it helpful to you?

Prayer Points

Pray for us to see the amazing claims which Jesus made about himself

Pray that we bear fruit by remaining in his love and obeying his words

Pray for those in sad and desperate circumstances

Pray for all who care well for those who need care

Pray for the people and work at St Martin's