

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

JOHN 15:1-8

Sermon

(Leggo trying to grow Grapes)

(Christians are connected with Christ through our Faith, so we will produce fruit.)

I had an opportunity to see a vineyard in the off season and I could see the one vine running along the fence built for the purpose and all along the vine were thousands of branches all attached to the vine. It was these branches that would produce the grapes in season. It helped me to better understand the gospel passage. Although there are many messages and questions that may come for the Gospel this morning I will mention only 3 points.

1. If we believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour we are connected to Jesus, we will bear fruit and we do not have to worry about being removed from the vine.
2. Even if we are connected through faith we still need to be pruned by God to grow, and be strengthened in body and faith so that we would become the people we are meant to and to be more useful to God.
3. God's Pruning is a life-long experience.

1. If we believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour we are connected to Jesus, we will bear fruit and we do not have to worry about being removed from the vine.

- a. Some other words for "Lord" is master, boss, head, ruler or king. If Jesus is our Lord then: -
 - i. We look to Jesus for direction in our life
 - ii. We seek to obey Jesus because he is our boss
 - iii. We acknowledge to others if need be, that Jesus is our Master.
 - iv. If Jesus is our Lord, we will submit to His will for us and all that we possess.
- b. To believe in Jesus as "Saviour" is to
 - i. Realize that we are sinners and need Gods Forgiveness. Until we have it, we have no hope in this life or the next.
 - ii. We realize that only God forgives sins

- iii. We realize the God sent Jesus Christ to pay the price for my sin and believing in Jesus is the way we come to God and have our sins forgiven.
- iv. God does this because of his great love for us.
- v. When we realize that Jesus died on the cross for us we acknowledge Jesus as Lord. We become connected to Jesus like the branch is to the vine and God will not cut us off because we have life in Christ.
- vi. What joy, what comfort that is to us and all Christians

2. Even if we are connected through faith we still need to be pruned by God to grow, and be strengthened in body and faith so that we would become the people we are meant to and to be more useful to God.

- a. **Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.**
(John 15:2)
- b. To believe in Jesus Christ is only the beginning. Our sins are forgiven. We are his Children. Now we begin to grow into the person God wants us to be. God is the one who changes us. Today's Gospel calls it pruning.
- c. Basically as we live through each day and experience what the world has for us; if we commit our lives to serving Jesus as Lord, then God changes or "prunes" us to become the people that God wants us to be.
- d. As God prunes us we produce more fruit in our lives because we are better able to see God's will and therefore better able to obey. As we allow God to prune or change us, we become more useful to God and therefore we bear more fruit.

3. God's Pruning is a life-long experience.

- a. Some of the branches connected to the vine will grow and bear more fruit, others will weaken and bear less fruit. Still others will become sick and become a hindrance to the Vine.
- b. This is because some branches receive more of the life-giving sap from the vine than others branches. The Vine-grower then prunes or tends the weaker branches to help them to grow, become stronger and bear more fruit.
- c. Christians are much like the branches. We are God's Children. We are forgiven. But there are many factors in our lives that hinder our ability to receive what God has for us – sin we have committed, (rebellion, stubbornness, lust, ignorance, hate, etc.) or Sin that has been committed against us, that has wounded us, (abuse, shame, violence, isolation, and the like, causing fear, doubt, confusion etc. in our lives.)
- d. God who loves us wants us to be healed. He wants to mold our lives into what we are meant to be. But because he loves us, he will not force himself on us. So he continually uses what the world puts us through to mold us, to prune us. If we allow God in during these situations if we seek his

guidance, we will be changed. Healing can take place. Strengthening can happen. We can become more of what we are meant to be.

- e. And because we have a sin nature, we do not fully see God's will for our lives. We do not fully understand God's direction. Therefore we need pruning, throughout our lives.
- f. Our whole life is allowing God in to our lives and to mold and prune us. The more we allow God in, the more we learn of ourselves and the more we realize we have farther to go in God molding and pruning.
- g. And All through our live Jesus journeys with us. Never leaving us, Never abandoning us. He helps us to see God's will, He helps us along the changing process, so that we truly can become the person and people we are meant of be.

My Friends: Give praise to God that he has chosen you to be his Children. That your sins are forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross. Submit your life daily to God so that You might be molded, be pruned, so that you might become the person God meant you to be. And know that in the changing you will be blessed. Amen