

"I Am the True Vine"

JOHN 15 · LESSON 18

"Rise, let us go from here." (John 14:31)

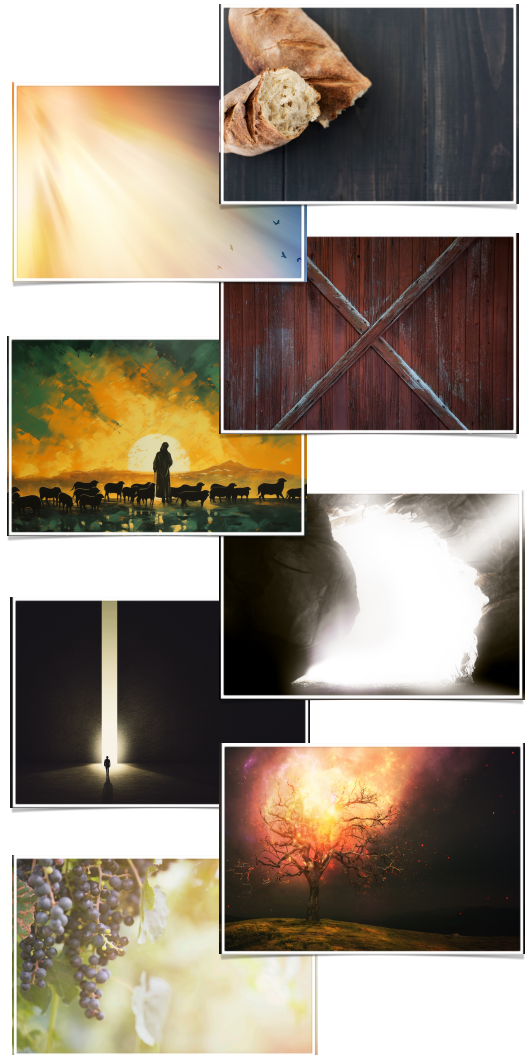
As Jesus led his disciples from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane, just outside the walls of Jerusalem, what was on his mind? What did he want his closest followers to remember as he spoke his last words to them before his sacrificial death?

"I am the true _____, and my Father is the _____. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he _____, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. _____ in me, and I in you. 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 _____. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much _____ and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my _____. If you keep my _____, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your _____ may be full." (15:1-11)

Once again, Jesus calls his disciples to love one another as he had loved them (15:12-17; 13:34-35). He warns them that following him isn't always going to be easy (15:18-25).

"If the world _____ you, know that it has hated _____ before it hated you. If you were _____ the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." (15:18-19)

But Jesus also promised that help was on the way (15:26-27). Let's dig into John 15 together...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Of all the ways Jesus could describe himself, why “the true vine” (15:1)?
- “And my Father is the vinedresser” (15:1). What do vinedressers do? In what ways is the Father like a vinedresser?
- In your own words, what will it mean to “abide in” Jesus (15:4-9)?
- John 15:8 sounds like a really important point for us to grasp. What is that point?
- What does all of this have to do with “joy” (15:11)?
- John 15:14-15 is a special moment. In your own words, what is Jesus communicating, and what difference does it make?
- We often sing, “I’ll Be a Friend to Jesus.” What’s that going to take? What’s it look like to be a true friend to Jesus today?
- Looking back at 15:18-25, why would the world ever “hate” Jesus? John 1:4-5 and 3:16-21 might be helpful to revisit at this point...
- Most of us don’t like the idea of being “hated” by anyone, so what should we take away from this?
- We’ll talk more about the Holy Spirit next week, but what do we need to see from 15:26-27?