

Men's Sunday Night Live
Lesson 15 - John 15:1-27
Finding Identity and Purpose
Relationships & Responsibilities

John 14 closes with, “*Arise, let us go from here!*” which suggests that the next two chapters may have been spoken on the way to the Garden. It is probable that Jesus and His disciples were passing some vineyards, or perhaps the temple with its golden vine decorations, when He gave the analogy of the vine and branches. It is important to remember that not everything in a parable must mean something. The main truth Jesus is teaching in this parable is the importance of abiding in Him in order to bear fruit. To abide in Jesus does not mean to keep ourselves saved. It means to live in His Word and pray, obey His commandments, and keep our lives clean through His Word. The Christian who fails to abide in Jesus becomes like a useless branch, like the salt that loses its taste and is good for nothing. To be a branch in the Vine means we are united to Jesus and share His life. As we abide in Him, His life flows through us and produces fruit.

When Jesus mentions “The world” He means the whole system of society that is opposed to Himself and the Father. It is made up of people and organizations, philosophies and purposes that are anti-Christian. “The world” has a prince in Satan, the enemy of Jesus. While Christians are in the world physically, they are not of the world spiritually. Christians can become worldly, and they do so by degrees. First there is friendship with the world, then love for the world, and finally conformity to the world. Anything in our lives that keeps us from enjoying God’s love and doing God’s will is worldly and should be put away.

In vs. 22–24, Jesus lays down the basic principle that revelation brings responsibility. His words and His works revealed the will of God and the sinfulness of men. Mankind has no excuse. The fact that Jews and Gentiles alike joined together in hating and crucifying Jesus is proof that all people are sinners and guilty before God.

It is the Word that strengthens and encourages us. He also promises them the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit’s work is to testify of Jesus and point to Him. He does this through the Word and through the good works the Christian performs in the Spirit’s power. The Spirit testifies to the Christian, who then witnesses to others.

Read John 15:1-27 and answer the following questions

1. When Jesus says, “*I Am the true vine*” what is He claiming about Himself? Note what else Jesus claimed to be: (John 6:35, 8:12, 10:9-11, 11:25 and 14:6)
2. Who is the vinedresser? What does the vinedresser do to care and provide for the vineyard? (See 15:2)
3. After calling Himself “I Am the true vine” in verse 1, why does Jesus now say, “I Am the vine, you are the branches”? (See 15:5)
4. Read Galatians 5:22-23. What are the fruits of the Spirit? What’s the greatest fruit and why?
5. How many times does Jesus use the word “abide” in this section? (See 15:1-17) What does it look like for someone to abide in Jesus?
6. What does Jesus say about those who choose not to abide in Him? (See 15:6)

7. What does it mean when Jesus says “*love one another as I have loved you*”? (Notice that this love isn’t limited to just Christians) (See 15:12, 17)

8. Jesus commands us to love one another. How do we sometimes let things of this world prevent us from loving one another?

9. Why did the world hate Jesus, His disciples and us today? (See 15:18-25)

10. What impact could we have if we routinely give blessings and respond positively when persecution comes our way?

11. Who is Jesus referring to as “The Helper” and the “Spirit of Truth” in verse 26? What is His purpose?

12. What’s one take away from this lesson that you can apply to your life this week?

The Cost of Following Jesus

Are you prepared to be hated because of your commitment to Jesus? Perhaps you expect to be misunderstood occasionally or even challenged by associates for “going overboard” on religion. But Jesus used strong words in John 15:18-25: “hate” and “persecute.” He indicated that our true commitments will be made clear when they start to cost us something.

What has your faith cost you? A promotion or some other career opportunity? Criticism by coworkers or family members? Legal action? Sooner or later, following Christ has a cost. In fact, if there’s no cost, is there really any genuine commitment? Jesus words suggest not.

However, it’s also possible for our actions or words to cause offence because they are inappropriate. In that case, the hostility we may receive is not persecution. Like Jesus, we are called to be people of truth and grace, not being obnoxious and rude. True persecution involves unmerited hostility for doing good works in the pattern of Jesus. (1 Peter 2:12-21)