


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

I Am the True Vine

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

Q1. Why does Jesus refer to Himself as the "true vine"?

² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

Q2. To whom does the word "branch" refer?

Q3. What does "fruit" represent?

Q4. Does this verse refer to us in the present-day and/or to the people in Jesus' time?

³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Q5. What does the word "clean" mean?

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

Q6. How does Jesus' Word make people "clean"?

⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Q7. How would you explain the symbolism between "fruit . . . must remain in the vine" and Jesus' Word to "remain in me"?


Remain in the vine?

Remain in me?

Symbolism explained?


⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Q8. Even a person who is 'anti-God' does good deeds; why did Jesus say "apart from me you can do nothing"?

 Note: Jesus is repeating Himself to emphasize that a person must "remain in [Him]". Jesus wants to ensure that His disciples (and we of this present-day) understand the importance of these truths that He is teaching.

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

Day 2

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⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Q9. Does the phrase “like a branch that . . . withers” refer to a person’s physical body or their spirit?

Q10. Does the phrase “branches . . . thrown into the fire” merely represent a strong word picture (metaphor) or does it foretell a future event?

Revelation 20:14-15

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

Q11. This seems to be a plain, understandable, bold promise. How would you answer a Believer who asks, “Why isn’t Jesus answering my prayers?” (Please review the discussion surrounding the questions following verses 13 & 14 on page 8 of StudySheet/Lesson 20: John 14:1-31.)

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Q12. Jesus began this sentence with “This”; to what does “this” refer?

Q13. How is Jesus’ Father glorified?

Q14. How does “bearing much fruit” prove that a person is a disciple?

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

Q15. Verse 10: Jesus is love; does this mean that He has saved everyone and everyone will go to Heaven?

1 John 4:8 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Romans 7:19

[Paul wrote,] For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do -- this I keep on doing.

Q16. Verse 10: Even Paul had sin issues; how are we expected to keep Jesus’ commandment?


Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

Q17. Verse 10: If I sin, does that mean that I do not truly “love” my Savior, Christ Jesus?

Q18. Verse 10: Jesus said, “If you keep my commandments . . .”; is Jesus’ love conditional on our works to “keep [His] commandments”?

Q19. As Believers are we obligated to keep the Ten Commandments?

Day 3

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¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Q20. How can our “joy . . . be complete”?

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"


³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Q21. Does John 15:12 (↑) complement (or contradict) Matthew 22:36-40 (↑)?

Summarize John 15:12

Summarize Matthew 22:36-40

Complement? Or contradict? Why?

 NOTE: In addition to John 15:10 and John 15:12, Jesus references “my command” in His ministry as evidenced by the following verses:

John 12:49 [In this verse Jesus states that His authority came from the instructions/directions/commands given to Him from His Father, and which He obediently performed.]


For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

John 14:21

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

 Definition: Agápe love: selfless love; love is given and nothing is expected in return; unconditional.

Q22. Can we “agápe love” another person? Or do we need the Holy Spirit’s guidance?

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.


Q23. Verse 13: Is Jesus giving a reason for His impending death?

Q24. Peter, who was one of Jesus' disciples, denied Jesus three times; was he Jesus' friend?

Q25. Considering Paul's confession in Romans 7:19 (↑ following verse 10), was Paul Jesus' friend?

Q26. Are we Believers Jesus' friend?


Day 4

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¹⁵ I no longer call you servants [or bondservants, or slaves], because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Q27. What is a "bondservant"?

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

 Definition: Bondservant, servant, slave: The word bondservant comes from the Greek word doulos, meaning “one who is subservient to, and entirely at the disposal of, his master; a slave.” In Roman times, the term bondservant or slave could refer to someone who voluntarily served others. But it usually referred to one who was held in a permanent position of servitude. Under Roman law, a bondservant was considered the owner’s personal property. Slaves essentially had no rights and could even be killed with impunity by their owners. The Hebrew word for “bondservant,” ‘ebed, had a similar connotation. However, the Mosaic Law allowed an indentured servant to become a bondservant voluntarily: “If the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,’ then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life” (Exodus 21:5-6). <http://www.gotquestions.org/bondservant.html>

Q28. Is there a contradiction between friend – do what I command you (see vs 14) – compared to friend – “I shared with you all that my Father has said” (vs 15)?

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit -- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

Q29. Jesus was talking to His disciples; did He also choose us?

Q30. Does “fruit” mean works? If yes, are we to work our way into Heaven?


Q31. Why do you think that God seems to ignore some/many of our prayers?

17 This is my command: Love each other.

Q32. How is this “Love each other” important to the Follower of Christ Jesus?

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

Day 5

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The Hatred of the World

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

Q33. Can you name some of the Biblical examples in which Jesus was "hated"?

Matthew 13:53-58

⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there.

⁵⁴ Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. ⁵⁵ "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

⁵⁷ And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor."

⁵⁸ And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Matthew 26:3-5 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (Phillips)]

³⁻⁵ At that very time the chief priests and elders of the people had assembled in the court of Caiaphas, the High Priest, and were discussing together how they might get hold of Jesus by some trick and kill him. But they kept saying, "It must not be during the festival or there might be a riot."

¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Q34. Does the world today hate Believers? Can you cite an example?

Q35. If Believers are "not of the world;" why are we still in the world?

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

Q36. In verse 20, who is the “servant”? Who is the “master”?

Servant?

Master?

Q37. Why does Jesus want His disciples (and us) to understand the servant/master relationship?


Q38. When Jesus calls us “friends”, does that contradict the servant/master relationship?

²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.

Q39. What did Jesus mean when He said, “They will treat you this way because of my name”?

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

Day 6

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²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.

Q40. Jesus said, "If I had not come". To where did He "come"? Was He talking about Jerusalem? The country of Israel?

Q41. Jesus said, "If I had not . . . spoken to them". Who is "them" and what did Jesus "speak" to them about?

Q42. I thought all people were/are sinners. Why does Jesus say, "they would not have been guilty of sin"?

Q43. Does this verse apply to the aborigine who dies before s/he hears the Gospel?

²³ He who hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴ If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.

Q44. Why do people "hate" Jesus and His Father?

Lesson 21: John 15:1-27

²⁵ But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

Psalm 35:7

Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me

Psalm 35:19 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause.

Psalm 69:4 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore?

²⁶ "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

Q45. Who is the "Counselor"?

Q46. How will the "Counselor, . . . the "Spirit of Truth . . . testify about [Jesus]"?

²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Q47. What are some of the ways the disciples, who are listening to Jesus, "will testify"?

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