

"Lessons From the Vineyard"

Text: John 15:1-5

Scripture reading: Matthew 20:1-16

I. The Farming of the Father - vv. 1-2 (Ps. 80; Is. 5:2; Jer. 2:21)

A) The Vine - vs. 1a

B) The Vinedresser - vs. 1b (Heb. 12:5-11)

C) The vineyard-work - vs. 2 (Jn. 6:37-39; 10:27-30)

II. The cleansing of the Word - vs. 3

A) Cleaning by pruning

B) Cleansing by His Word (Heb. 4:12; II Tim. 3:16-17)

III. The abiding of the believer - vv. 4-5

A) Mutual abiding essential to fruitfulness

B) Fruitfulness comes through the Vine

1. _____ fruit (II Thess. 1:11-12)

2. _____ fruit (Gal. 5:22-23)

3. _____ fruit (Jn. 8:31-32)

C) Fruitfulness should not be meager

Conclusion:

1. Believers are _____ to _____

2. Believers will need _____

3. Believers must be _____

"There never lived a man who was too holy, and there never will live a man who will imitate Christ too closely, or avoid sin too rigidly."

Charles H. Spurgeon

Sermon quotes:

Richard Phillips, *"The idea of pruning is to remove whatever inhibits growth, and Jesus applies this principle to the Father's pruning of our spiritual lives. He strips away things that are spiritually detrimental, even if they are good things. He takes the knife to our bad habits and assails our prayerlessness by giving us things to pray about. The Father applies the pruning knife to our priorities and values, and strips away relationships that would hinder our faith."*

Hymn: "Day by Day" - *"Day by day and with each passing moment, strength I find to meet my trials here; Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear. He whose heart is kind beyond all measure, gives unto each day what He deems best. Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure, mingling toil with peace and rest."*

Gordon Keddie, *Abiding in Christ*, "...is the active cultivation by every professing Christian of a living spiritual relationship to Christ."

Richard Phillips, *"It includes a devoted participation in the worship and work of Christ's church, joining together with the other members of the body of Christ for communion with and service to the Lord."*