

We will begin the 13th lecture on the book of John. /Today's message is from John 15.

/The title of chapter 15 is "The Vine." /Here are the main points of the chapter. /First, the metaphor of the vine. /Verses 1-8. /Second, the life of love. /Verses 9-17. /Third, the world hates believers. /Verses 18-27.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

/Jesus is the true vine. /We believers are the branches. /And the Father is the vinedresser. /The vineyard represents the church. /The vineyard is God's enterprise.

/If we look at Isaiah 5:2-6, /we see that God gave to the people of Israel the best vines. /He built a watchtower, and he cut out a winepress in it. /The Lord supported it with dirt, /built a wall to keep the enemy out, /and sent rain.

/However, the vine did not bear grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. /What are vines used for? /They are not ornamental trees. /These vines are not used to make furniture.

/Grape vines are given the mission of bearing grapes. /Today, God has given us believers gifts and blessings. /He has put us in an environment in which we can keep our faith. /Then how many fruits of faith have we bore?

/If the vine does not yield grapes, it is cut with an axe and thrown into the fire. /We need to bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit. /Galatians 5:22. /We need to bear the fruits of light. /Ephesians 5:9.

/We need to bear the fruits of preaching the gospel. /Colossians 4:3. /We need to bear the fruits of repentance. /Matthew 3:8. /We need to bear the fruits of praise. /Hebrews 13:15. /We need to bear the fruits of love. /15:13.

/Verse 2. /Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

/Jesus said that every branch that does not bear fruit is taken away. /If we don't bear the fruits of faith, God will discipline us. /Our hearts stray from Jesus. /Our work of life stops happening.

/Our spirits become dry, and we will experience hardships and pain. /Verse 6 tells us that the branches of a tree that do not bear fruit are thrown into the fire. /Verse 2 tells us that the branch that does bear fruit is pruned so that it may bear more fruit.

/A branch must be clean for it to bear fruit. /We believers must be pure. /We must not fall into secularism. /Romans 12:2. /Day by day, we must be made clean and be renewed.

/What must we do to bear fruit? /First, we must repent of our sins and lay down our greed. /Second, we must turn away from living for the world and live for God. /Ephesians 4:23.

/Third, the spirits of believers must grow more every day. /Our spirits will be clean only if they grow. /A grape vine does not yield grapes from its branch from last year.

/The newly grown branch of this year's spring will blossom and yield grapes. /We yield fruit when we are clean. /A vine that is eaten by bugs cannot bear fruit.

/For example, if we have unclean things, such as sin and greed, within us, we cannot bear fruit. /We cannot bear fruit if we live for the world, living in sexual immorality and debauchery. /If we are lazy and waste our days, we will not bear fruit.

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

/Believers have already been born again. /Believers who believe Jesus is their Savior have been born again through the word and the Holy Spirit. /We believers have already been made clean. /However, sinful nature and corruptness still remain in us. /We must daily rid ourselves of our sinful nature and become new.

/Verse 4. /Abide 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.

/Unless the branch abides in the vine, it cannot receive the sap of the vine. /The branch loses its life when it happens. /It will not yield grapes. /Therefore we must at all times communicate with Jesus in our lives.

/A believer who leaves Christ cannot live for even one hour. /We must continue to communicate and stay in a relationship with the Lord. /We must pray to Jesus. /We must walk with him. /We need to love God.

/We need to obey the word of God. /Jesus says, "Abide in me." /There are ways we can abide in Jesus. /First, we must believe in him. /Second, we must spiritually communicate with Christ.

/We believers must repent and seek and search for the Lord. /We also need to meet with the Lord spiritually and communicate with him. /Third, we must keep the commandments. /We need to obey the word. /We must make sure the word of the Lord dwells within believers. /Verses 7, 9, and 10.

/Verse 5. /I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

/The believer has spiritual communication with Jesus when he dwells in Jesus. /Jesus works a new life in the believer and allows him to bear fruit. /Jesus said, “For apart from me you can do nothing.”

/Jesus is saying this to believers. /We believers lose spiritual communication with Jesus when we abandon him. /Because we are born again, our souls do not die.

/If we are born again by believing in Jesus, we will not be separated from God. /To be apart from Jesus means that we have lost communication with Jesus. /When this happens, we cannot properly do the works of faith. /We cannot yield fruit.

/Eventually, the merit of our work will burn in the fire and disappear. /1 Corinthians 3:15. /If we lose spiritual communication with Christ, our work of life will be discontinued. /A sheep cannot last one hour without its shepherd.

/Therefore we believers must abide in Jesus. /Jeremiah 17:5. /The verse says, “He it is that bears much fruit.” /We bear fruits of faith.

/We become more like the image of Christ. /Galatians 4:19. /We act in righteousness, truth, and holiness. /Our souls begin to grow. /Colossians 1:6.

/Verse 6. /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 we believers do not bear fruit, God throws us away. /If we leave Jesus, our spirits dry up. /God throws us away and disciplines us.

/Moreover, the unbelieving people of the world trample on us. /Matthew 5:13. /The verse says, “The branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. /This means there will be hardships and pain.

/God will punish us by inflicting pain on us. /He will inflict pain on our bodies and families. /Thus we must always abide in Jesus. /The Lord said that the vine without grapes will be burned. /Luke 13:6.

/A life pursuing the desires of the flesh is living a life that does not bear fruit. /Romans 6:21. /Galatians 6:8. /Therefore we must sow for the Holy Spirit and live our spiritual lives according to the will of the Holy Spirit. /Then will we bear fruits of faith.

/Verse 7. /If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

/The believer must abide in Jesus. /Jesus’s words must also abide in the believer. /We need to obey the word of the Lord. /We must receive life and strength from the word. /We must be molded by the word.

/Then God will do whatever we pray for. /We need to properly understand the word. /We must draw closer to God. /We must always meditate on the word and chew on it.

/The word must be sweet and mysterious to us. /It must be our life. /If we pray to God with this faith, he will answer our prayers. /Isaiah 59:2 . /John 15:16. /John 14:13. /1 John 5:14. /Matthew 7:7.

/We must make the effort to pray before God. /God's love is infinite, so he listens to his children's prayers. /However, we believers must not pray in our own greed. /We must seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. /Then all things will be given to us.

/Verse 8. /By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

/Bearing fruit means that the believer reveals God's character. /In other words, he is becoming more like the image of God. /Refer to verse 5. /When this happens, God receives the glory. /We believers become Jesus's disciples.

/We also become like Jesus. /To bear fruit means we become more like Jesus. /We become his true disciples. /God receives glory when we bear fruit. /That is when we become Jesus's true disciples.

/Verse 9. /As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

/Starting from verse 9, we are taught that the believer must abide in love. /The believer must abide in Jesus. /Verse 4. /Next, the word must abide in the believer. /Verse 7. /Furthermore, we must abide in Jesus's love. /Verse 9. /In this way, we must abide in Jesus.

/Verse 10. /If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

/Jesus obeyed the Father's every commandment. /12:49. /5:20. /He always abided in the Father's love. /The believer abides in the Lord's love by obeying his commandments.

/It means we keep the Lord's commandments. /Here, "Father's commandments" are the Father's commands. /They are commandments of love. /Refer to verse 12.

/Verse 11. /These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

/In order for the believer to possess the Lord's joy, he must keep the Lord's commands. /If he keeps the Lord's commands, he abides in the Lord's love. /If we keep the Lord's commandments, the spiritual world grows wider. /If we keep the commandments, the works of new life will happen.

/What this means is our souls are revived and they flourish. /Additionally, we come to properly understand the truth. /Then joy will abound in us.

/Verse 12. /“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

/Jesus’s commandment is for us to love one another. /This is the new commandment that Jesus has given to us. /13:34. /To love one another is the new commandment. /The Old Testament has its commandment of love as well. /The Ten Commandments are commandments of love. /Leviticus 19:18.

/Why did Jesus call this the “new commandment.” /By dying for us, Jesus completely revealed the love of God. /Jesus, whose coming was foretold in the Old Testament, came and died on the cross. /He showed us his love. /That is why it is the new commandment.

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

/Jesus died for us, who were his enemies. /Before God, Jesus became the atonement offering in our place. /Now we sinners have changed and become righteous people. /Jesus has called us his friends.

/Jesus laid down his life for us, his friends. /How great of a love is this? /There is no greater love than laying down your own life. /1 John 3:16.

/We too must be willing to lay down our lives for the salvation of others. /If we die while we preach to others, we are martyred. /This is the greatest love.

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

/We need to keep Jesus’s commands and obey him. /We must love Jesus. /Then, we will be his friends.

/Verse 15. /No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

/Believers are no longer servants. /We have become free people. /We have received the Spirit of adoption as sons. /Romans 8:15. /The believer who is in Christ is united with Christ’s life. /We are no longer servants. /We are not foreigners.

/Believers are brothers and friends of Jesus Christ. /Hebrews 2:11. /Thus Jesus gives everything to us, who are his friends. /He also tells us what he hears from God.

/Believers, you probably don’t have secrets between you and your friends. /We share everything with our friends because we are close to them. /In other words, what is mine is

yours, and what is yours is mine. /My thoughts are your thoughts, and your thoughts are mine.

/That is why friends walk together. /Jesus is our friend. /He has elevated us lowly people to become his friends. /We need to be grateful for this.

/Verse 16. /You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

/We did not choose Jesus. /We did not grab onto him. /He chose us. /He first saved us. /Jesus extended to us his hand of salvation.

/He first loved us. /Before Creation, God chose us in Christ. /Ephesians 1:4. /We are guided by Jesus's rope of love. /We then bear the fruits of faith. /Furthermore, God receives our prayers when we pray in the name of Jesus. /14:13.

/Verse 17. /These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

/Jesus's command is, "Love one another." /Loving one another is the greatest fruit we can bear. /The commandment of love is the greatest commandment. /There is faith, love and hope, but the greatest of them is love.

/Verse 18. /"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

/The people of the world hate us. /The fact is the people of the world first hated Jesus. /We will be hated upon because of the name of Jesus.

/Because the people of the world hate Jesus, they hate us believers. /When people hate us for doing the work of Jesus, we should be glad. /We are becoming more like Jesus. /If we are persecuted for the Lord, our reward will be great. /Matthew 5:11-12.

/Verse 19. /If you were of 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.

/The believer was chosen before God. /We have become Jesus's possession. /We do not belong to the world. /We belong to Jesus. /We belong to heaven. /Jesus is our king. /That is why people of the world hate believers who keep their faith.

/Verse 20. /Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

/A servant is not greater than his master. /Jesus, who is the Lord, was persecuted.
/Therefore we servants of Jesus will also be persecuted. /A servant is satisfied in being like his master. /Matthew 10:25.

/There were people who listened to the words of Jesus, who is the Master, and kept them. /Therefore there will be people who listen to us when we preach. /There are always people who believe.

/Verse 21. /But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

/People of the world persecute believers because they do not know God. /The verse says, “all these things.” /They are things that the people will do, including hating and persecuting believers.

/The people of the world do not know God the Father, the one who sent Jesus. /They do not know Jesus. /They do not know God the Father. /For these reasons, they persecute believers.

/Verse 22. /If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

/Jesus came to this world and taught the truth. /If Jesus hadn’t spoken, people would not have realized their sin. /If this happened, they would not feel guilty about their sins.

/Jesus came to the world and taught the truth. /Now, no one has any excuse for their sin. /If people do not obey the Lord’s words, they will be judged before God according to the word. /Romans 7:13.

/Before people hear the words of the Bible, they do not know that they sin. /As they hear the Bible’s message, they come to realize that they are sinners. /Therefore, no one can give an excuse before God.

/You now need to repent of your sins. /You must believe in Jesus. /If we do not believe in Jesus now, we will have nothing to say before God. /Whoever does not believe in Jesus will pay the price of his sins in judgment.

/Verse 23. /Whoever hates me hates my Father also.

/Jesus was sent by God. /Jesus spoke and acted according to God’s commands. /Jesus completely revealed who God is. /Thus whoever hates Jesus hates the Father also.

/Whoever believes in Jesus believes in the Father. /Whoever does not know Jesus does not know God the Father. /By believing in Jesus, we believe in God and know him.

/Verse 24. /If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.

/Jesus said, “If I had not done among them the works that no one else did.” /This refers to the works that Jesus did. /Then what are these works? /First, Jesus revealed God. /Second, Jesus bore witness to the fact that he is Christ. /10:37-38.

/Through these works, people saw Christ and the Father. /When people hate Jesus when they have seen these things, they hate God. /They betray God.

/Therefore the greatest sin is the sin of not believing in Jesus. /Jesus showed us the Father, and he taught us about the Father. /If people still do not believe in Jesus and hate him, they will be judged before God.

/Verse 25. /But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’

/The Bible is fulfilled when people hate Jesus. /Psalm 35:19. /Psalm 69:10.

/Verse 26. /“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

/The Helper, the Holy Spirit, is the Advocate. /The Holy Spirit will come and bear witness about Christ and the truth. /Refer to 16:7. /The verse says, “The Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father.”

/The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and Son. /20:22. /In this way, the Holy Spirit forever proceeds from God the Father and God the Son, and he will be forever. /This is a divine work that is always complete. /It goes beyond human knowledge, and it is a mysterious work fulfilled in the Trinity. /The Helper, the Holy Spirit, is the Spirit of truth. /16:13.

/The Holy Spirit helps us understand the truth and bears witness about the truth. /He leads us to the truth. /The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible. /Therefore, anything that is not the truth is not the work of the Holy Spirit.

/Verse 27. /And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

/The disciples lived with Jesus Christ. /They saw him with their eyes, touched him with their hands, and personally heard his words. /The disciples experienced Jesus as they lived with him.

/They also saw and bore witness about what they saw. /1 John 1:1. /Luke 1:1,2. /That is why Jesus appointed his disciples as his witnesses. /Therefore, the disciples’ accounts are true.

/That is why the apostles recorded the New Testament Bible. /The Holy Spirit also bears witness about the Bible. /Thus the accounts about Jesus are true. /We are certain that Jesus is Savior. /Because we believe in Jesus, we receive salvation and are blessed.

/This concludes the 13th lecture on the book of John. /Thank you.