

# PALM SUNDAY

## *The Triumphal Entry of the King of Kings & Lord of Lords*

### *Jesus: My Abiding Place*

John 15: 1-11

It is almost impossible to view the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as the hope of Israel expressed by the exuberant crowd: we are on this side of Calvary. We know their superficial loyalty. We know their rejection and demands for His crucifixion. We know they preferred a treasonous criminal over their Messiah. We know how this week ends...and how the next week begins! Yet, in the midst of all the plotting and deceit and confrontations in the Temple teachings, the escalating tensions and drama and secret supper, Jesus takes the time to give His disciples—to give us—some of the most important instruction and imagery in the Gospels. Among the many significant revelations is the rich symbolism of Life on the Vine reflected in vineyards all around Jerusalem.

#### I. The True Vine, and the Earthly Copy

- A. The Psalmist writes: *The heavens are telling of the glory of God and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.* (Ps 19:1). Isaiah reports hearing the Seraphim cry around the Throne, *The whole earth is full of His glory.* (Is 6:3)
- B. This earth is filled with the glory and beauty of God, and even though marred by sin and the curse, we see His nature and character in everything He has made. (Rom 1:20)
- C. Jesus is not *like* a grape vine, He *IS* the true vine, and He has created a reflection of His relationship with us in the form of a picture of fruitful blessing we call a vineyard.

#### II. The Nature of The Vine

- A. Everything around us speaks of the nature of God in many ways great and small, but some relationships in creation are especially meaningful in providing living illustrations of our connection to Him as we contemplate their attributes. Among them are sheep with a Shepherd and fruitful branches on a Vine.
- B. Both elements of creation have peculiar similarities
1. Sheep provide many blessings to their owners but require a shepherd if they are to survive and thrive.
  2. Vineyards provide abundant fruit, wealth, and blessing to their owners but require a vinedresser and cultivator lest they grow wild, woody, and useless.
- C. Each vine must be individually and meticulously pruned, cultivated, irrigated, fertilized, and attention given to every branch if it is to flourish with luscious fruit and a bountiful harvest.

#### III. The Secret Blessing of Abiding in the Vine

- A. Branches alone have neither root nor fruit: it is essential that they remain in the vine—for *without Me you can do nothing!*
- B. Branches have no means of obtaining necessary nourishment and essential moisture—all is drawn from the trunk and roots of the vine
- C. Branches do not produce fruit in themselves—it is the vine that produces fruit through them. Fruit is proof of life coming from the vine.
- D. Without pruning and individual care branches grow woody and wild, consuming all the resources on themselves—the Vinedresser cuts the wild shoots away and trims the branch so that it will bear much fruit.

Have you learned the secret of abiding in the Vine? The only requirement for abiding is to hang on

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Abide in me, as I also abide in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not abide in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, 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. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

## MEDITATION QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like for you to abide in the Vine?
2. Do you see eternal fruit produced through your life?
3. Is the Father wanting to prune dead, wild wood from your life?
4. Do you sense yourself intimately connected and intertwined with Jesus the way a branch is with the vine?
6. What would it take for you to yield more fully, to abide more faithfully, to produce fruit more abundantly?

### NOTES

**As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now abide in my love. If you keep my commands, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and abide in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, 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. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.**