

Life Group Notes – Sunday 17th February

“I AM THE TRUE VINE”

Read John 15:1-11

This is possibly one of the hardest passages in John's Gospel. It makes us feel uncomfortable. It demands a response. It is meant to be like that. As we start, it is important to remember that John's inspiration for seeing Jesus and writing his Gospel is seen in the light of the Old Testament. When we look at Old Testament passages we are reminded that the image of the Vine is not a new one. Indeed Israel was to be like a Vine for God to bless others. (see Isaiah 5v1-7 for an example) Israel was also to be a light to the Nations (Isaiah 42v6-7 & 49v6) and the image of the Vine represents the blessing they should become to the world. But they fail due to sin, hypocrisy and dead religious works. This is why John then brings Jesus in at this point. He is the TRUE VINE. What Israel has failed to be, HE IS. And those who are truly His followers, must be connected – or go the way of Israel. Jesus's teaching gives us five things to consider.

[1] The Gardener v1, 2, 6

What role does the Gardener play?

[2] The Vine v1, 4, 5, 8

What role does the Vine play?

[3] The Branches v2, 4, 5, 6

Describe who the branches represent and why.

[4] The Disciples v2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 16

Describe the position and life of the Disciple

[5] Personal Response

This passage demands a response, “*The Right Connection is Everything*”

What does that mean to you?

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