

# One Week Left - What Would You Do with Seven Days?

## Episode 3 - John 15-17 — *I Am the Vine Discourse*

### I. Vineyards and Pruning

- A. Read Isaiah 5:1-7, and especially verse 7, which describes Israel as God's vineyard and God as the vine dresser. What is the role of the vine dresser? How does God nurture your life to try and bring you spiritual health? How has God pruned parts of your life to bring spiritual health?
- B. Jesus says "I am the Vine, you are the branches." What does the use of the words "I am" mean in Greek, and especially throughout John? If Jesus is the vine, who in this analogy is the "New Israel" - who is the vineyard of God?
- C. If the disciples are to be a growing part of the vineyard, they must be connected. What are ways that we connect to God? What happens when that connection gets severed? Who are others who are "part of the vine" who help you stay connected to God? What are experiences of life that have temporarily severed that connection, causing you to become inwardly focussed? What are the characteristics of persons who are disconnected from the vine?

### II. Servant vs. Friend

- A. John Wesley preaches a sermon about the difference in life when one realizes that one is a child of God, and not a paid servant. Have you experienced that change in your relationship with God, from a functional relationship to an intimate relationship?
- B. How does Jesus seem to be moving the disciples in the nature of their relationship, from Rabbi to friend?

### III. The Parable / Advisor / Comforter

- A. How does God sending the Paraklete (friend, comforter, guide, Holy Spirit) become a source of comfort for the disciples?
- B. How did the world turn against the Jesus and the disciples? How did God multiply the church in spite of this opposition? What role did the Holy Spirit play in this surprising growth?

#### IV. Being Connected

- A. Jesus prays that the disciples and all believers will be as connected as Jesus and God are one. How important should it be for us to create relationships with each other? What could you do to build deeper spiritual relationships with other believers?
- B. When we are truly connected with something bigger than ourselves - that preceded our life and will live beyond us - how can that bring meaning to life? What are you doing in life that will live beyond your lifetime? In whom are you investing spiritually who will carry God's Kingdom as you have shared it to generations to come?

#### V. If there was only one week left in your life....

- A. What would you do to stay connected to God? Jesus had an ongoing prayerful dialogue with the Father. What means of grace would you utilize? How could you strengthen those "vines" even now?
- B. Jesus tried to communicate that we are, disconnected from him and other believers, headed toward spiritual ruin. However, connected we have the possibility of limitless spiritual vitality. What eternal truths would you try to emphasize if it were your last week of life?
- C. How would you seek to change your relationship with God, from the fear of being a hired servant, to the joy of being a beloved child?