

Branch Life of the Believer Lesson 2: The Husbandman

And My Father is the Husbandman - John 15:1

I. Introduction

- a. The origins of the word husbandman go back to the **ninth** century Vikings who brought the word with them when they invaded England.
- b. Originally the word referred to the master or landowner of the house." It is the **combination** of two words, *hus* "house" + *bondi* "householder, dweller, or freeholder.
- c. Over time it began to be applied to those who managed a farm and oversaw the conservation and **production** of both animals and crops. Thus, today we refer to the science of animal husbandry.
- d. While grapevines may grow in the wild, in order to **maximize** their production, a vine must have a husbandman to plant and watch over it, to tend to it and to rejoice in its fruit.
- e. Believers are the **branches** of the Lord's Vine and Jesus tells us: "*My Father is the husbandman.*"

II. The Relationship of Jesus to the Husbandman

- a. In reference to the Millennial Kingdom of Messiah, Jesus was referred to as "the **branch**." Isa 11:1-2 *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, KJV*
- b. As a Branch of God's own planting He understood (as we **should also**) that all He was, and all that He said and all that He did, His mission was complete obedience to the Father. In every act He was seeking the Father's will and glory. John 5:17-20 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." ¹⁸ For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. ¹⁹ Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. NIV
- c. Jesus had become man to show us the **life giving** relationship between the branch and the Vine and how the Husbandman cares for His Vine. John 5:26 *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; KJV*
- d. Jesus models the **dependent** life of the branch to the vine and His life before the Father is always a picture of what He seeks to produce within us. John 8:28-29 *I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. ²⁹ And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. KJV*
- e. Jesus became the true Vine, that **we** might be true branches. John 1:12-13 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. KJV*
- f. Jesus grasped the **significance** of His connection with the Father. He lived in submission to Him and relished their oneness. Christ lived in the Father and the Father lived in Him. John 10:30 *I and my Father are one. KJV*
- g. As dependent as a vine is on a husbandman for the place where it is to grow, for its training on the trellises and for its watering and pruning, so Christ was dependent upon the **Father**. John 5:19 *"The Son can do nothing of himself."*
- h. Christ felt Himself entirely dependent on the abiding **presence** of the Father for the wisdom and guidance to do the Father's will. John 14:10 *"The words that I say unto you, I speak not from Myself; but the Father abiding in Me doeth his works."*
- i. This absolute dependence had as its blessed counterpart the most blessed **confidence** that He had nothing to fear: the Father could not disappoint Him or leave Him uncared for in the world. John 8:29 *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him .KJV*
- j. With such a Husbandman as His Father, He could even enter death and the grave. He could **trust** God to raise Him up. John 14:19-20 *¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. NIV*
- k. Both in regard to Christ and to ourselves as branches of the true Vine this passage teaches us **two** fundamental lessons:
 1. The first is that of the absolute **dependence** of the branch upon the Vine. John 15:5 for without me ye can do nothing. KJV
 2. The second is the absolute and perfect **confidence** that the branch has in the ability of the Vine to anticipate and to supply it's every need. Matt 6:8 *for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.KJV*

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III. The Relationship of the Branches to the Husbandman

- a. When Jesus says to His disciples that “*My Father is the Husbandman,*” He wanted them to know that it is the **work performed** by the hand of the Husbandman that glorifies the Father. John 15:8 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. KJV*
- b. Christ is about to teach His disciples about their being branches. But before He ever uses the word, or speaks at all of abiding in Him or bearing fruit, He turns their eyes heavenward to the **Father**.
- c. To the Lord Jesus everything **proceeds** from the Father and that is what He wanted His disciples to understand as well. Matt 6:30 *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? KJV*
- d. The Husbandman is watching over them, caring for them and doing everything that is necessary to enable them to be fruitful. The Husbandman is doing all the work **in them** for His glory.
- e. At the very root of all Christian life lies the fact that God is to do all; that our work is to yield and leave ourselves in His trustworthy hands. Whatever does not come from Him is **worthless** to Him.
- f. It is in the believer’s confession of utter helplessness and dependence that **faith** has her perfect work. This sense of helplessness produces the assured confidence that the Husbandman provides all we need.
- g. It is a grievous error and a great lack for many in the Christian life that, even where we trust Christ, we leave God the Father out of our **reckoning**.
- h. We must bear in mind that Christ came to **reveal** God to us. Christ lived the life of a man exactly as we have to live it: for the Father. Christ the Vine points to God the Husbandman. Luke 10:22 *All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. KJV*
- i. As He trusted God, let us trust God. As those who belong to the Vine, let us know that **everything** we ought to be and to have, will be given us from above. Isa 27:2-3 *“A vineyard of red wine; I the Lord do keep it, I will water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.”*
- j. Let us look to our Father the Husbandman **before** we begin to think of fruit or branches, let us have our heart filled with the faith that as glorious and benevolent as the Vine, so the Husbandman.
- k. As high and holy as is our calling, so mighty and loving is the God who has **given** us to the Lord Jesus. It is the Husbandman who will work it all out to His glory and the glory of Christ. John 17:9-10 *I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.¹⁰ And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. KJV*
- l. As surely as the Husbandman has made the Vine what it is to be, He has made each branch what it is to be and has designed its fruitfulness according to His **purposes**. Phil 2:13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. KJV*
- m. Our Father is our Husbandman; He is the **Surety** for our growth and fruit. The Husbandman prunes both leaves and potential fruit bearing buds in order to get the optimum production from the Vine.

IV. Application

- a. Blessed Father, we are Your husbandry. Oh, that You would take pleasure in us, the work of Your hands!
- b. My Father, I desire to open my heart to the joy of this wondrous truth: My Father is the Husbandman.
- c. Teach me to know and to trust You, and to see that the same deep interest with which You cared for and delighted in Jesus, the true Vine, extends to every branch in Him... and to me too.