

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 159

Passion Week ~ Yeshua's Final Discourse ~ Part 1

In our last post, we continued to examine the final days of **Yeshua's** life and ministry. This post continues to explore the events that occurred on **Thursday Evening** (now early on Friday in the Jewish culture).

Introduction

The **Last Supper** is completed, and He and His **talmidim** are headed toward the **Mount of Olives**. **Yochanan** alone records the **Final Discourse** of **Yeshua** with His chosen **talmidim** (minus **Y'hudah**). **Yeshua's** teaching occurs in the **Kidron Valley**, which forms the eastern border of **Yerushalayim**. Each word **Yeshua** speaks reflects His burden in leaving these men to finish the work He has begun. He encourages them in their faith and promises that in His name, they will perform great works. He calls them to mutual love to withstand the inevitable persecution which awaits them. He assures them that the **Ruach HaKodesh** will be with them and guide them in their mission. ¹

As modern-day Believers, we need to take these teachings to heart!

The Vine and The Branches

¹ "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² Every branch which is part of me but fails to bear fruit, he cuts off; and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit.

I am the real vine. **Isra'el** is also **God's** vine or vineyard (see Isaiah 5:1–7, 27:2–6; Jeremiah 2:21, 12:10; Ezekiel 17:5–6; Hosea 10:1; Joel 1:7; Psalm 80:8–16) and compare **Yeshua's** parables at Mattityahu 21:33–43, Mark 12:1–12, Luke 20:9–19. The fact that the **vine** describes both the **Jewish** people and its **Messiah** reinforces the close identification of **Isra'el**. The **Messianic Jewish** remnant (Romans 9:6ff., 11:1–10) will obey **Yeshua's** commands, stay attached to the genuine **vine**, and have the genuine **vine's** power and strength to bring forth good fruit (Mattityahu 7:16–19). And so will the grafted-in **Gentile Believer's** branches (Romans 11:17–24).

Fruit is what grows naturally out of a plant or situation. Galatians 5:22–23, fruit refers to character qualities given by the **Ruach**, at Mattityahu 13:1–23, perhaps to other people who trust **Yeshua**, at Romans 6:21–22 to righteousness. **Prunes.** The Greek word means, literally, **cleans**. To clean of excess foliage is to prune, but the context also calls to mind cleansing from sin.

³ Right now, because of the word which I have spoken to you, you are pruned. ⁴ Stay united with Me, as I will with you—for just as the branch can't put forth fruit by itself apart from the vine, so you can't bear fruit apart from Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who stay united with Me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from Me, you can't do a thing. ⁶ Unless a person remains united with Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire, where they are burned up. ⁷ "If you remain united with Me, and My words with you, then ask whatever you want, and it will happen for you. ⁸ This is how my Father is glorified - in your bearing much fruit; this is how you will prove to be My talmidim.

Love One Another

¹ The Narrated Bible in Chronological Order by F. LaGard Smith.

⁹ "Just as my Father has loved Me, I too have loved you; so stay in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commands, you will stay in My love - just as I have kept My Father's commands and stay in His love.

I have kept my father's commands. This probably refers to Yochanan 14:31. The context gives no ground for considering it an assertion that **Yeshua** obeyed the Torah perfectly.

¹¹ I have said this to you so that My joy may be in you, and your joy be complete. ¹² "This is My command: that you keep on loving each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than a person who lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I no longer call you slaves because a slave doesn't know what his master is about, but I have called you friends because everything I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Yeshua's talmidim are no longer his slaves but his friends. Later, the **talmidim** are His brothers, **God's** sons by adoption (Romans 8:14–17, Galatians 3:27–4:8).

¹⁶ You did not choose me, I chose you; and I have commissioned you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that whatever you ask from the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷ This is what I command you: keep loving each other! ²

Go and bear fruit. Staying (vv. 1–8) and ***going*** are consistent with each other: the **Messianic** lifestyle is, on one hand, passive and receptive and, on the other, active, transmissive, and productive.

In our next, we continue to follow **Yeshua into Yerushalayim for His Crucifixion** by the week's end and explore **Yeshua's Final Discourse**.

² Yochanan 15:1–17.