

John 15-16

Introduction.

- A. Chapters 13-17 are one unit.
 - 1. Upper room (13-14).
 - 2. On the way to Gethsemane (15-16).
 - 3. High priestly prayer (17).
- B. Judas no longer with them.

I. The vine and the branches (15:1-17).

- A. Background.
 - 1. A Hebrew *mishal*, combining parable and allegory.
 - 2. Israel as the vine (Ez. 17; Ps. 80:8ff; Is. 5:1-7).
- B. Jesus is the life-giving vine (1-6).
 - 1. Father is the gardener (= owner as well as laborer).
 - 2. Branches = believers.
 - 3. Fruit.
 - a. Attitude (Gal. 5:22-23).
 - b. Action (Jas. 2:26).
 - c. Pruning knife is applied to both.
 - 4. They are already pure (pruned) (*kathairein*).
 - 5. Union of Christ and the believer.
- C. Explanation (7-17).
 - 1. Hebrew poetry.
 - 2. Chiastic pattern.
 - a. 7 - command
 - b. 7 - asking
 - c. 8 - fruit-bearing
 - d. 8 - chosen
 - e. 9 - Father
 - f. 10 - love & obey
 - g. 11 - joy.
 - m. 17 - command.
 - l. 16 - asking.
 - k. 16 - fruit-bearing.
 - j. 16 - chosen.
 - i. 15 - Father.
 - h. 12-14 - love and obey.

II. Hatred of the world (18-25).

- A. Syllogism.
 - 1. The world will hate Jesus.
 - 2. Jesus loves and abides in the disciples.
 - 3. Therefore, the world will hate the disciples.
- B. A summary of John's theology of the world.
 - 1. Unbelievers are of the world.
 - 2. Satan is the prince of this world.
 - 3. Antagonism of the world against Christ.

- C. Jesus and his followers are distinct from the world.
 - 1. A new dualism (1 Pe. 1:1)
 - 2. Directly opposed to the world.
 - 3. The world's rejection of Jesus proves their sin.
 - a. They knew.
 - b. They rejected.

III. The work of the Holy Spirit (15:26 - 16:15).

- A. From the Father and the Son (26 - 27).
 - 1. Spirit of truth.
 - 2. Will witness about Jesus.
 - 3. We are joined with the Spirit in our witness (active - Mt. 16:18).
- B. Will result in persecution (16:1-4).
 - 1. Forewarned is forearmed.
 - 2. Results.
 - a. Excommunicated.
 - b. Killed -- a service to God (Saul of Tarsus).
 - 3. Because the world knows neither the Father nor the Son.
- C. Jesus's return to the Father.
 - 1. Temporary grief.
 - 2. For their good - so the Holy Spirit will come to them.
- D. Convicting work of the Holy Spirit (8-11) (legal term = to expose).
 - 1. Sin.
 - a. Because they do not believe.
 - b. Present continuous verb (keep on disbelieving).
 - 2. Righteousness.
 - a. Jesus's going to the Father proves his innocence.
 - b. Vindicated by the Father.
 - 3. Judgment.
 - a. Satan is defeated and condemned.
 - b. Satan's followers share his condemnation.
 - c. Although he remains prince of this world, his judgment is sure.
- E. The Holy Spirit's work in the disciples (12-16).
 - 1. Guide - into truth.
 - a. Jesus.
 - b. Gospel.
 - 2. Speak - Father to the Son to the disciples.
 - 3. Reveal - He is messenger from the Father.
 - 4. Glorify - by making Christ known to the world.
 - 5. Give - what is Christ's is now given to the disciples.

IV. Joy and peace (17-33).

A. Confusion (17-18).

1. Will not see.
2. Will see.
 - a. Resurrection.
 - b. Holy Spirit.
 - c. Christ's return.

B. Teaching on joy (19-24).

1. Grief while the world rejoices.
2. Grief will turn to joy.
 - a. But (*alla*) = a strong contrast.
 - b. Not “replaced” but “turned to.”
 - i. The cross is the basis for both grief and joy.
 - ii. Just as birth is the basis for pain and joy.
3. Power of prayer leads to fullness of joy.

C. Teaching on understanding (25-33).

1. Plain language - completes the disciples' understanding.
2. Intimacy with the Father.
 - a. Can go directly to the Father.
 - b. Based on the Father's love.
3. Summary of Jesus's mission (cf. Phil. 2).
 - a. Incarnation (“came” is aorist).
 - b. Exaltation (finished what he came to do).
4. Reaction (29-30).
 - a. Full trust.
 - b. Reaffirmation of Jesus as Messiah.
5. Response (31-33).
 - a. They will soon be scattered, leaving Jesus alone.
 - b. Not alone because the Father is with him.
 - c. Promise of peace.
 - d. Jesus has overcome the world (1 John 4:4-6).