



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - July 10, 2011

Sermon

Lessons in the Stained
Glass:

*"I am the Vine, You are the
Branches*

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 7/11/11

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a vineyard. It was cleared stones (we know about this in the Poconos, don't we?) and dug. It was planted with choice grapes and yet it yielded wild grapes. God declares that the vineyard will be made into a waste and then overgrown. The punchline of this vineyard story is in verse 7. How are we like the people God is speaking about in this verse? Is our vineyard growing or is it growing wild?

Tuesday 7/12/11

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable about a vineyard in the gospel of Matthew. Violence erupted over this vineyard when it was time to harvest. Even the vineyard owner's son was murdered! The heavenly meaning of this earthly story is the rewards of the cornerstone (Christ) will be given to those who receive him, not those who reject him. Have you accepted Christ as the cornerstone in your life? If you haven't, do it today!

Wednesday 7/13/11

Mark 12:1-12

The gospel of Mark also tells this parable of the vineyard. It is just about verbatim to the account in Matthew's gospel. Obviously this parable was important enough to the early church that it appeared in two of our four gospels. The target audience for this parable was really the Pharisees and chief priests, even though Mark does not include this fact as clearly as Matthew does in his account. The religious leaders were getting way too big for their britches, as my grandmother would say. We all run this risk, if we are really honest with ourselves. We must remain humble, especially in the church. There is no reason for a Christian to get too big for his or her britches! Let us be humble.



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Visit a vineyard and see how the branches are interconnected each to the other...

Read the Bible to discover how important vineyards were in Bible times...

Thursday 7/14/11
Exodus 22:5

Few of us today realize the prime importance of a vineyard back in biblical days. This verse from the Law of Moses helps us to see just how important a vineyard was to the people back then. What is important to you today? Are you spending enough time caring for your vineyard--the thing that has great value to you? Neglected fields and vineyards are a sad sight. They require much attention and work. Today, spend some quality time in your vineyard.

Friday 7/15/11
1 Corinthians 1:10-13

"I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together!" I fondly remember singing this song in my hometown church. It was not in our old hymnal, so some of our church leaders glued this song inside the cover of those old hymnals. This was an important song to our church because it reminded us of our connectedness. We belong to each other and we belong to God. We are the branches of the true Vine! "Yes, we are the church together!"

Saturday 7/16/11
1 Kings 21:1-16

Naboth had a vineyard. The vineyard was nice. Naboth also had a neighbor. The neighbor was not so nice. This story in 1 Kings is a lesson in how we should not covet our neighbor's vineyard, his ox, her laptop, his motorcycle, her clothes, or anything else. We have a phrase: "keeping up with the Joneses." Why do we worry so much about stuff that is not ultimately important? Care for what is your's instead of wishing for what you think is greener grass across your neighbor's fence! How can you better care for what God has given you instead of always wanting more?