

Journey of Faith

How Deep is His Love

I have a word of encouragement this morning

This mornings lesson-- life and death & identity

Introduction: The middle of the farewell speech. Jesus has a heavy heart
read verses 1-8

Cliff hanger scene

- The richness of the vineyard.
Isaiah 5:7 refers to Israel as
"The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight."
- Ezekiel 15- vine... Hosea 10:1 spreading vine...
- Today's message is wrapped up in good news!
- Do you see what Jesus is doing?
-He's preparing His people
- Sort of like a cliff hanger...

You are the branches- a message of hope!

Isaiah 5:1-7 Jer. 2:21: (corrupt) Ez. 15:(fruitless) Hosea 10:1: wild

- You think you are a branch on the true vine of God.
 - Jew
 - Religious practices
 - Church
 - Give
 - Baptism

Jesus is really saying... vine. Intimate relationship with Him. **(hope)**

- Involves having his words in our lives.

Polycarp's martyrdom...

blood line... religious piety/practice... abiding/depend faith

- The pruning also keeps use vitally dependent **(Good)**
- As we abide in the True Vine, Jesus calls us His friends...

You are my friends

John 15:9- "I command you to love!"

- Sacrificial love. John 13:33-34
- Heart of gospel Mt. 22:34-40

You want to be encouraged? John 15:13-15 / look at 13:34-35

- Gets involved with other Christians closely enough...
- We're His friends. (I'd die for my friends)
- We did not choose Him-- He chose us... He says... love!

Song: How Deep The Father's Love For Us...

Conclusion: We have good news

- Our restoration
- Hope! **We can believe!**
- Light of men
- Lamb of God- takes away the sin of the world
- The body that would be raised in three days
- One & only Son God gave to the world
- Spring of water welling up to eternal life
- Savior of the world
- Moses
- One who walked on water
- Bread of life
- Streams of living water flowing from within Him
- The I Am!
- The One who gives sight to the blind...
- The gateway to salvation
- The resurrection and the life
- Become sons of light
- The one who loved us and sent His son
- The Way and the Truth and the Life
- The True Vine!

This relationship by itself can't be private.

- Our life becomes a witness... like the cliff hanger.

The reality of our Christian witness:

1. Our witness-- fellowship & intimacy with Christ... experiencig
2. Our witness-- inner conviction.
3. Our witness-- outward testimony

Jesus has prepared us! Hallelujah!