

THE VINE. THE BRANCHES. THE GARDEN.

May 17, 2020

Isaiah 41:17-20; Psalm 148:7-14; John 15:1-11

"JESUS, "I AM THE TRUE VINE"

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

GOD DOESN'T WASTE A GOOD CRISIS

- The Exile. The Babylonian Captivity..., a foreign land.
- God causing Israel to question where they found their consolation?
- Consolation? "The place of refuge to which we flee."
- Where do we find our consolation?

THE EXILE - THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

We relate to Israel during the Exile. Expulsion from the Land.
GOD'S REDEMPTION - PURPOSE IN THE EXILE

WHERE DO WE FIND OUR CONSOLATION?

- Israel? People of the Land to People of the Book.
- Saint James? People of the Pews to People of the Word.

HOW MAY WE STAY CONNECTED IN THIS FOREIGN LAND?

Psalm 137:

*"By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.*

On the willows there we hung up our lyres.

For there our captors required of us songs,

and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?"

WE ABIDE IN THE GARDEN OF THE LORD

THE VINE:

- The Vine is our source of consolation
- "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

THE BRANCHES:

John 15:4, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself,

THE GARDEN:

For the Lord comforts Zion;

he comforts all her waste places

and makes her wilderness like Eden,

her desert like the garden of the Lord;

joy and gladness will be found in her,

thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Isaiah 51:3

THESE ARE THE BRANCHES NOURISHED BY THE VINE

John 15:12, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

The Gathering Prayer for Sunday, May 17th

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.