

Separate the Chaff from the Grain. Separate the Counterfeit from the Genuine/Real.

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Sunday Message

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Luke 3:15-18

Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ, John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people.

Revelations 2:24-26

But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Revelations 3:9-10

Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

We are truly living in these times. People are losing their jobs, which leads to many spinoffs. Bond payments cannot be made, debts cannot be paid, there is a concern among parents for food in the house, to take care of the children as they also have needs. And so the list carries on.

There has never before in our time been a time as this, where we, the church, **MUST** take hands and stand together. We **HAVE** to carry each other and truly show we are one. **THIS IS NOT DEBATABLE.**

We must show our calibre and set the standard. No standard is acceptable to the church, but the standard set by Jesus.

If there is no real, there cannot be a counterfeit. If there is no R100 note, there cannot be a counterfeit R100 note. If there is no true church, there cannot be a counterfeit church.

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

Jesus says: "I am the true vine."

If Jesus says "I am the true vine" there must be a counterfeit.

Deuteronomy 32:32-33

For their vine is from the vine of Sodom, And from the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes are grapes of poison, Their clusters, bitter. Their wine is the venom of serpents, And the deadly poison of cobras.

This is an example of a counterfeit vine. This is why Jesus emphasises "I am the true vine". The other is an alien vine, a counterfeit. It is filled with poison, bitterness, its fruit is the venom of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras.

What is said of the vine of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Jeremiah 2:13-21

"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water. "Is Israel a slave? Or is he a homeborn servant? Why has he become a prey? The young lions have roared at him, They have roared loudly. And they have made his land a waste; His cities have been destroyed, without inhabitant. Also the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes Have shaved the crown of your head. Have you not done this to yourself By your forsaking the Lord your God When He led you in the way? But now what are you doing on the road to Egypt, To drink the waters of the Nile? Or what are you doing on the road to Assyria, To drink the waters of the Euphrates? Your own wickedness will correct you, And your apostasies will reprove you; Know therefore and see that it is evil and bitter For you to forsake the Lord your God, And the dread of Me is not in you," declares the Lord God of hosts. "For long ago I broke your yoke And tore off your bonds; But you said, 'I will not serve!' For on every high hill And under every green tree You have lain down as a harlot. Yet I planted you a choice vine, A completely faithful seed. How then have you turned yourself before Me Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?"

False could have been true before.

John 6:64-65

But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

Jesus knew there were counterfeits in His group.

Judas was a disciple.

Judas was true.

Judas became false.

This change in the nature of the vine comes about when people who knew the truth change and become false. If you do not discern, you can eat of the alien vine. They water down the truth and degenerate and become an alien vine.

We have to build up a reputation of being a true/genuine people. It is easy to fall away if you don't have a relationship with God or with other believers. Distinguish the true vine from the vine of Sodom and Gomorrah.