

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****JOHN 15****John 15**

The end of John 14 is when the Lord Jesus and His disciples depart the great room where they had the Passover meal together. This room was also where closing words of encouragement were given to the disciples concerning the "coming one" (Greek-**Parakletos**), the "one called alongside" to counsel, encourage, equip, and empower for the work that would be assigned after the resurrection of Jesus, and before His ascension. The Holy Spirit.

The Passover that Jesus had with His disciples would have occurred on what is today the "western hill." This was where many of Jerusalem's wealthy and prominent people would have lived. Today, most of this area is known as the "Jewish Quarter" and is one of the most visited and beautiful places to see children and families eating and enjoying time together. When I am in the Jewish Quarter, many times all throughout the year, I am often reminded of the Prophet Zechariah's prophesy that, "**The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.**" (Zechariah 8:5)

Jesus left this area and would have gone in sight of the beautiful temple that Herod the Great had expanded and made one of the most beautiful complexes in all the ancient world during the first century A.D. As they came in sight of the Temple, they would have seen its beautifully adorned side walls that had sinewy grape

vines, so exquisitely hewn from Marble and other stone, with clusters of grapes hanging in clusters as long as 15 ft. This must have been a marvel to behold, with the lights of the night torches lighting up the area in the darkness of the ancient sky. On His way to the **Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus would have given the allegory of John 15.**

**"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. "Just as the Father has loved Me; have also loved you; abide in My love. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. (John 15:5-11)**

Please listen to the Podcasts that go with these chapters, as it is critical to understand as much as possible about these amazing last hours of Jesus before His crucifixion.

**Prayer and Action Steps**

*Jesus knew what awaited Him in the garden of agony, yet He wanted His disciples to one day be filled with Joy after the sorrow of the night and the morrow. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving us Your Word that teaches us to walk with You and enjoy the fullness of Your presence.*