

## Wild Grapes and the Fruit of the Spirit

*We sang the song, “We are the King’s Delightful Vineyard...”*

**David Zerubbabel** — When I sing that song, I always think of how our Father expected to get the fruit from the vineyard. He kept sending the messengers, and they kept killing the messengers. Then He said, “Well, I’ll just send my Son!” They took Him and threw Him out of the vineyard and killed Him.

*Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will He do to those tenants? And they judged rightly, they said to Him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give Him the fruit in their seasons.” And our Master said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone? This was the Sovereign’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.’ Therefore I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but the one on whom it falls will be crushed. (Our Master was referring to Daniel 2:44-45)*

Really, our Father wants a happy ending to that story. He wants there to actually *be* a nation that will bear the fruit that is due Him. Our Father made a big investment in the vineyard, and He deserves the fruit! He deserves a people that will *give Him* what is due Him. This is what we are living for, to give Him what is due Him — the fruit, as that song says, because He wants to fill the whole world with fruit!

But it is not going to happen unless there are people on the earth who see their life as insignificant compared to our Father’s purpose, who see whatever they could do with their gifts and their own strength and their own resources and their own understanding as of no consequence compared to our Father getting what *He* wants — getting a bride for His Son, getting a Kingdom on the earth, getting *sons who obey Him*, like Yonadab had sons who obeyed him.

Old Israel brought forth wild grapes. Wild grapes. He expected good grapes, but they brought forth wild grapes. I wonder what a wild grape is. Doesn’t it say wild? Did He expect a united people or something? A witness to the nations? What are *wild grapes*? I guess all the grapes were doing what they wanted to do. They went wild. They divided. It’s a picture of Christianity. There are just wild grapes; there’s no order, but just 37,000 denominations.

**David Derush** — They are not under the care of the Husbandman.

**David Zerubbabel** — Yes, Yoceph Rodriguez explained that to us one time, how the vinedresser cuts back all the wild growth that saps the strength of the vine.

Yes. That's right. He *prunes it*.

**David Zerubbabel** — He prunes it down to twelve major branches, and the energy of the vine goes into those twelve branches and produces clusters. It's not just a bunch of wild growth that only produces a bunch of leaves and a few sour grapes. But it focuses the energy of the root system on supporting those twelve branches. It is amazing it is twelve. People in the world who manage vineyards reduce each vine to twelve branches. Our Master didn't just pull that number out of the air. That is actually what the wisdom of taking care of vineyards was.

John 15:5, right? We have to produce the fruit of the Kingdom. The Kingdom was taken away from old Israel and given to a nation that would produce the *fruit* of it. And what is the fruit? The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached as a *witness*. The *witness* is the fruit — the evidence set before the world. You have a narrator, and you have the play going on, and they must coincide. The gospel is the narration of the witness.

### **The Original Faith**

Jude wrote right before Revelation. He wrote just a very short epistle, and he pleaded. One of the things he saw happening in his day was that the *faith* that had originally been expressed in the very beginning of the church when the Holy Spirit first came, was in jeopardy. He saw something happening. They were not expressing the same persuasion. Faith means persuasion. They weren't being persuaded to *do what they originally did* — the original faith.

He said to contend, whatever *contend* means. It did not mean to go to war, as many have thought and done. But we are to *contend* for the original faith that Peter proclaimed that day in the first century when the 3,000 who *believed* were baptized into the Body of Messiah, and all who believed were together — *lived together*, as a matter of

fact, and had all things in common. That is the original faith. That is the original persuasion. And he said to *contend for that!*

I was born and raised in Christianity. All my life it was just *doctrine*. We were to contend for the *doctrine*. They have been doing it through the centuries, contending for the *doctrine*. They think it's doctrine that Jude was talking about. And if you didn't have the right doctrine, well, you were liable to get your head cut off. It has happened all through the centuries.

Jude saw the apostasy coming, and if you keep on reading Jude, you can read all about what was going on: They promised much and delivered nothing. They became wild.

*For certain men have crept in unnoticed and were marked for this condemnation, ungodly men who turned the grace of our God into wildness!*

Wildness or lawlessness, doing your own thing, denying the *only* Master and Sovereign Yahshua. They were denying Him, even though they professed Him. They had *doctrine*, but they didn't have *faith*. Pretty soon their doctrine went wild also, and so the comprehensive gospel was not preached anymore. It became just an "easy-believism." It didn't change your life. It only made you go to a meeting every week. That's what Jude was seeing creeping in. It says they *crept* in unnoticed, and pretty soon it turned the church into something wild, as you see today in its many divisions.

They *disowned* our Master Yahshua. Of course, Lord means Master, one who has absolute *dominion* and supreme authority over you, and you are totally submitted to Him. That's the faith that was *once for all delivered to the saints* (those who are being sanctified). This was the apostolic teaching given to the believers who lived together and had all things in common. There was no such thing as a believer *not* living together and having all things in common. There's no such thing, because Acts 2:44 says *all who believe* in the gospel (as Jn 3:16) lived together and had all things in common. That was the message they heard from Peter on the day of Pentecost. He preached the *many other*

words, doing exactly what our Master said before He ascended into heaven. “Teach them to obey all that I have commanded you!” So when they were baptized, they sat at the feet of the apostles. They were being taught and they lived in fellowship. You didn’t have to say, “OK, now you *have* to live together.” *No!* They knew before they were baptized what the gospel meant! It meant giving up your life, your individual, selfish life!

That is the gospel we have heard. It wasn’t any surprise to us. We knew that we were going to *move in*. There was no other way. That is the gospel they heard that day (Acts 2:40-41). “All who received his word were baptized,” meaning *immersed into the Body of Messiah!* If you are immersed into the Body, you are going to live together and you are going to have all things in common. *That’s the faith we have to CONTEND for.*

**Nahaliel** — When I opened up to Jude, I just landed on verse 17 where he says, “But you, beloved...” He was just pleading with them, “But you, beloved, must remember the predictions of the apostles of our Master Yahshua the Messiah, for they said to you that in the last time there will be scoffers indulging in their own ungodly lusts. It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions.”

He is saying these are the ones who don’t *have* the Spirit. They *cause* the division; they are leading others astray! Paul predicted that there would even be those among us who will rise up and gather a following to themselves. You see it among the Corinthians. “I’m of so and so,” but actually, they were just making that up. They weren’t really of so and so because the apostles weren’t divided. The apostles warned, “*Remember, you must remember!* Build yourselves up in your most holy faith.”

And I thought, well, the most holy faith, what is that? What is the most holy faith? It is what we’ve been taught. It’s being *faithful to do the things we did at first!* To be faithful means keeping your eyes on the One who saved you, the One who forgave you, who brought you to where you are. Keep yourselves in the love of God. Look forward to the mercy of our Master Yahshua the Messiah that leads to eternal life. I just read that and it stood out to me that it is those who are devoid of the Spirit who lift themselves up and cause divisions. *But you, you remain faithful* to what you learned from the beginning.

**Hannah** — If you think of the word *wild*, it means not connected to others, just *on your own*, doing your own thing, chaotic, out of control. That’s not

what the attitude of willing people is. Willing people work together; they connect and they are building together.

Jude 1:21 — “Keep yourselves in the love of God,” but that’s the *boundaries* in which His love can reach and bless you. Keep inside the boundaries. Don’t get *wild!* If we get wild and don’t stay in those boundaries, we’re going to be *wild grapes!* We want to be sweet grapes that love the nourishment we get in the Vine. Our Father is the Vinedresser, our Master is the Vine, and we have the branches, and we have the twigs, and we have the *clusters!* And the *clusters* are *communities*.

The church cannot be any other way than the way it was when it was the Way. If the church is any other way than the way it was when it was the Way, *it’s lost its way! It’s lost its way! And it’s no longer the Way, the Truth, and the Life!* It doesn’t represent our Master Yahshua because He said, “I am the Vine, you are the branches, and I want you to produce *much* fruit and sweet grapes.” He wants sweet grapes, not wild grapes.

**ha-êmeq** — It reminds me of that story we had a long, long time ago called “The Harness of the Lord.” There is a story about two *wild* horses, and all of a sudden that *rope* came around their neck, and they were taken to a corral. They didn’t realize that it was the King. The King was trying to prepare them to pull His chariot, but it felt as if they were *not free to be wild anymore*. One of them totally rebelled and said, “I want to just be *wild,*” and just took off. And he ended up out in the *wild...*

There is something about *wild*. If you see something wild over there, and you try to get close to it, and then you try to pen it in... You think, if you can just *tame it*, you can bring it in. There is something in man that just wants to tame what’s wild, because if it’s not tamed it will just be out there without being able to accomplish a purpose.

But there is such a wonderful purpose for that horse to get *trained!* When I was coming home, I was so thankful because when we were driving up, I thought, “There’s a body of people here, and they are not wild; they are all working together; they are all pulling the chariot of the King. And sure enough, when I arrived, there you all are, doing your part. There’s a *Body*. Even in the very beginning, Havdalah, you taught us that song, “Praise God for the Body.” “Praise God for the life that binds our hearts as one.” It was such a wonderful song! I don’t know, did your parents teach you that song? [*Her parents were presently visiting us.*]

Really, that's what we need to be is a Body that works together in coordination, bringing all of ourselves under the control of the Head, so that we're not just wild! We can do so much as a *coordinated* Body that works together. Wild won't be good in the long run. Wild isn't good for horses or for people. We need to be tamed by our Father's Spirit.

Let's sing that song...

*Praise God for the Body,  
Praise God for the Son,  
Praise God for the life  
That binds our hearts in one.*

*Joy is the food we share,  
Love is our home, brothers  
Praise God for the Body,  
Shalom, Shalom.*

*Guard your circle brothers,  
Clasp your hand in hand,  
Satan cannot break  
The bond in which we stand.*

*Joy is the food we share,  
Love is our home, brothers  
Praise God for the Body,  
Shalom, Shalom.*

*Shed your extra clothing,  
Keep your baggage light,  
Rough will be the battle,  
Tough will be the fight, but...*

*Joy is the food we share,  
Love is our home, brothers  
Praise God for the Body,  
Shalom, Shalom.*

What a wonderful song! It goes right along with community. I guess a wild grape thinks he is experiencing freedom. But true freedom is freedom from the evil one, and that comes in the Body of Messiah. That's true freedom.

We're being pruned, so we can bear greater, more abundant fruit.