

I Am the True Vine -John 15:1-11

Jesus uses images and examples from the Natural Order to help us understand Spiritual Truth.

- Parable of the Sower – Mark 4:1-20; I Corinthians 3:5-8 (see below)
- Mustard Seed – Matthew 13:31
- Wheat and Tares – Matthew 13:24-30
- Barren Fig Tree – Luke 13:6-9

I Corinthians 3:5-8

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants, nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. I AM the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser.

See Engel Scale last page.

Isaiah 5:1-7

*Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild
grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me
and my vineyard.*

*What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked
for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do
to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its
wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or
hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they
rain no rain upon it.*

*For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are
his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for
righteousness, but behold, an outcry!*

- Israel is metaphorically “God’s Vineyard”.
- Israel was “unfruitful”.
- God judged Israel – Babylonian Captivity

Matthew 21:33-44 – Parable of the Tenants

- Picture of Israel’s disobedience

- Beat the servants who came on behalf of the master.
- Kills the masters' servants – Prophets.
- Stoned the masters' servants – Prophets.
- Killed the Son – the heir – lets take the vineyard as our inheritance
- Stone rejected by Israel.
- Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to those who bear fruit.
- Chief Priest understood this parable was spoken against them.

Matthew 20:1-16 Laborers in the Vineyard

- Early morning – a denarius for a day's labor in the vineyard
- Third Hour (9 am) – I will do what is right.
- Sixth Hour (Noon) – I will do what is right.
- Ninth Hour (3 pm) – I will do what is right.
- 11th Hour (end of the day) – I will do what is right.
- Paid laborers from the last employed to the first.
- All receive the same wage.
- Those that worked all day grumbles.
- Owner inquires, “have I done you wrong?” Did I give you the agreed upon wage?
- Are you envious because I am generous?
- First will be last and the last will be first.

Romans 11: 11-25

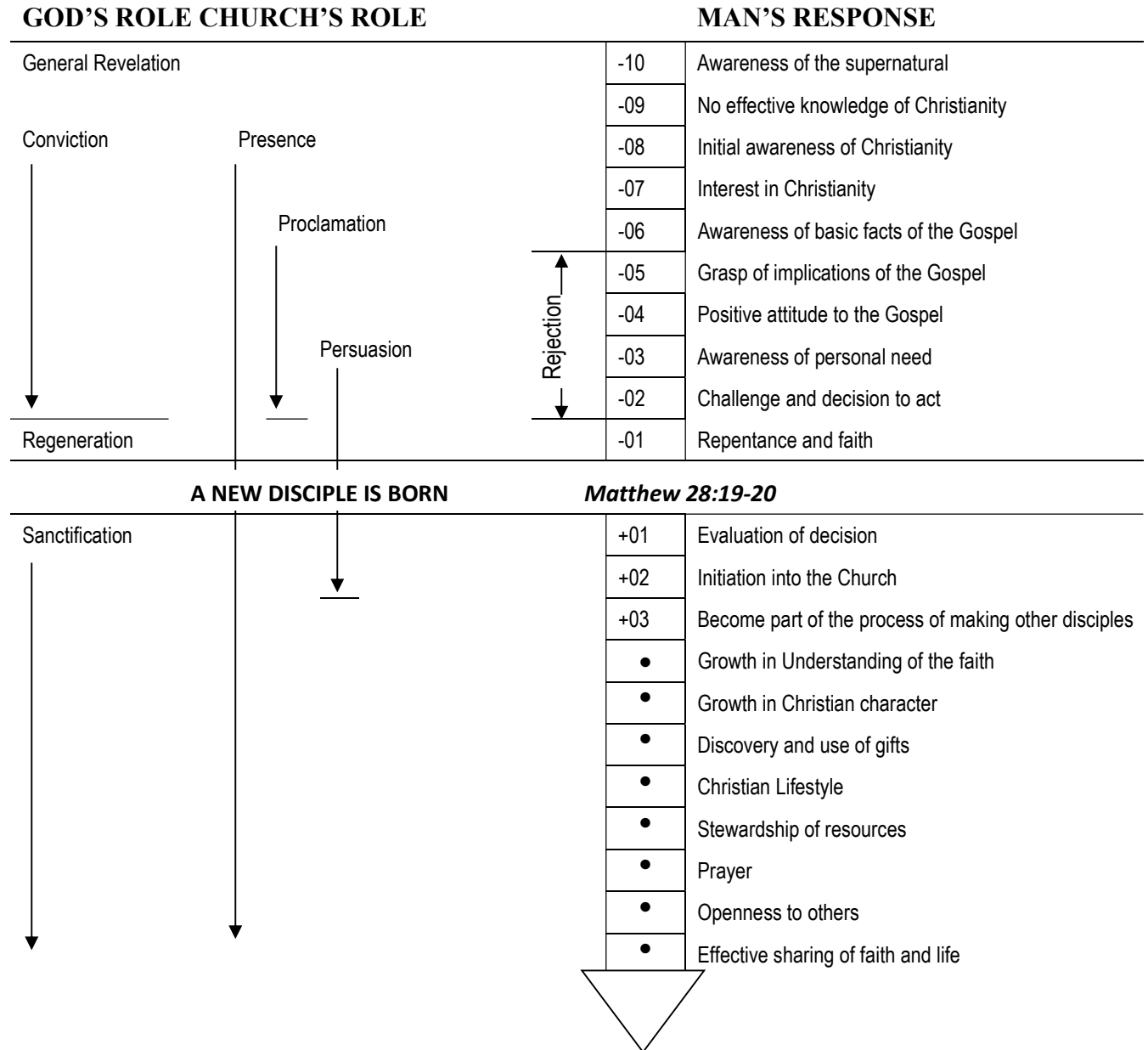
- Israel's failure opened salvation to the gentiles.
- Israel's rejection brought reconciliation to the world.
- Natural branches (Israel) were broken off (removed)
- Wild branches (Gentiles) were grafted into the root.
- Faith vs. Unbelief
- God can graft in the Natural Branches (Israel) again.
- Partial hardening of Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles come in.

John 15:1-11

- Jesus is the vine; Father is the vinedresser.
- Vinedresser removes branches that do not bear fruit.
- Branches that bear fruit the vinedresser prunes.
- We bear fruit by “abiding” in Jesus.
- Apart from Jesus we can not bear fruit (you can do nothing).
- Those not abiding in Jesus are cast away, gathered, dried and burned in fire.
- God's Word foundation for abiding in Jesus.
- Asking and answered prayer.
- How the Father is glorified – we bear fruit.
- Disciples bear fruit.
- Love is the KEY.
- Keeping His commandments reflects our love.
- Joy is the by product of obedience through love.

ENGEL SCALE¹

SPIRITUAL-DECISIONS PROCESS



The Engel Scale charts the decision-making process in becoming a Christian, taking all of these factors – especially attitudinal and intellectual – into account.

¹ Adapted from “What’s Gone Wrong with The Harvest?” by James F. Engel and Wilbert Norton, Zondervan, 1974

