



# John Chapter 15

[crossroadoftruth@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadoftruth@gmail.com)

## John 15:1-16

# Context

---

- Thursday night, just hours before the Cross
- John 14:31 “...Arise, let us go from here.”
- Most think they left the “Upper Room” at this point and began their walk to the Garden of Gethsemane along the Kidron Valley – there was a vineyard in this area and was a full moon on Passover.
- The **Vineyard**, like the **Fig Tree** was a common Old Testament **symbol of Israel**
- Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:8, 14-17; Jer 2:21; Mark 12:1-12; Hosea 10:2

# Old Testament Background

---

## Isaiah 5:1-7

**<sup>1</sup>My Well-beloved has a vineyard** On a very fruitful hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine.

...So **He expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes,  
But it brought forth wild grapes...**

<sup>5</sup> And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned;

...

**<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel,**  
And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant.  
**He looked for justice, but behold, oppression;  
For righteousness, but behold, a cry *for help*.**

# Old Testament Background

---

## Psalm 80:8-9

<sup>8</sup> You have brought a **vine out of Egypt**;  
You have cast out the nations, and planted it.

## Psalm 80:14-17

<sup>14</sup> Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; Look down from heaven and see,  
And **visit this vine** <sup>15</sup> And the **vineyard** which Your right hand has planted,  
And the branch *that* You made strong for Yourself.

<sup>16</sup> *It is* burned with fire, *it is* cut down; They perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.

<sup>17</sup> **Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand,  
Upon the son of man *whom* You made strong for Yourself.**

- 
- *Israel wondered that for centuries what the “Man” in this Psalm meant until in John Chapter 15 and Verse 1, Jesus said, “I am the true vine.” Not just, “I am the vine” – “I am the **true** vine.”*

# New Testament – Mark 12

## Parable of God's Disappointing Vineyard

---

- <sup>1</sup> Then He began to speak to them in parables: “**A man planted a vineyard** and set a hedge around *it*, dug *a place for* the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.
- <sup>2</sup> Now at vintage-time he **sent a servant** to the vinedressers, that he might **receive some of the fruit** of the vineyard from the vinedressers. <sup>3</sup> And they took *him* and beat him and sent *him* away empty-handed.
- <sup>4</sup> Again he **sent them another servant**, and at him they threw stones, wounded *him* in the head, and sent *him* away shamefully treated.
- <sup>5</sup> And again **he sent another**, and him they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some.
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore still **having one son**, his beloved, **he also sent him** to them last, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>7</sup> But those vinedressers said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>8</sup> So **they took him and killed him** and cast *him* out of the vineyard.
- <sup>9</sup> “**Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others.**

# Mark 12: THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED VINEDRESSERS is the History of Israel

---

- In both cases (Mark 12 & Is. 5:1-7) the owner of the vineyard looks for fruit, and when he receives none, acts in judgement. Everything was done to ensure the vineyard produced fruit: “vat”, “tower”
  - **Man** who planted the vineyard is **God**,
  - **Vineyard** was **Israel**,
  - **Tenant Farmers** – The **religious leaders**, stewards of Israel’s privileges (Rom 9 – the Law, scripture, Covenants, sacrificial system, God’s revelation, etc.)
  - **Long Journey** – **Old Testament history** – God establishes Israel in the land, gives them His Law, gives them everything they need and puts stewardship in the priests.
  - **Harvest** – appropriate season for a **spiritual harvest**
  - **Slaves** who were sent – **Prophets** – Moses to John the Baptist
  - **Missing fruit** was **Justice** and **Righteousness** (Is. 5:7 – Faith in Jesus Christ)
  - **Unlike the exile of Isaiah’s time**, in the NT, the priestly role of Israel among nations (Ex. 19:5-6) would be abolished and **the gospel would go to “All Nations”** to those who trust in Jesus & be “**given to a nation bearing fruits**” (apostles). Matt. 21:43
  - Israel was unfaithful and was broken off by God’s judgement – **Now Jesus is saying that Israel is not the Vine, but now Jesus is the True Vine, the true Tabernacle, the Temple, the Great I AM.** (Replacement theme misinterpreted by Liberal theologians– but Romans clearly explains that God is not finished with Israel yet – Abrahamic & Davidic Covenants)

John 15:1

## “I AM THE TRUE VINE”

---

- This is a profound claim to Deity and a massive change in Old Testament thinking. Another major “I AM” claim to be equal with God.
- **True Vine** means “Genuine” – like the “**True Light**” – John 1:9 and the “**True Bread**” John 6:32
- **Jesus is claiming that Israel is no longer the “Vine”, but it is Him!**
- This is contrasted with the “False” Vine, which had become a “religion” with no fruit.
- This is revolutionary – it is not about being identified with a **religion** or the **Temple** or the **nation of Israel**, but are you “in-Christ” by putting your trust in Him.

# 7 “I AM” Statements \*

---

1. I AM the **Bread** of Life (6:48)
2. I AM the **Light** of the world (8:12)
3. I AM the **Door** (10:9)
4. I AM the **Good Shepherd** (10:11)
5. I AM the **Resurrection and the Life**  
(11:35)
6. I AM the **Way, the Truth and the Life** (14:6)
7. **I AM the True Vine** (15:1)

\* These are claims to be God. This is the same translation as Exodus 3:14 & Rev. 1:8.  
“I AM” translated means YHWH or Yahweh, the name for God Himself.



## John 15:1-2

# “I AM The TRUE Vine”

- “I am the **true vine**, and My Father is the **vinedresser**.
- <sup>2</sup> Every **branch** in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He **prunes**, that it may bear more **fruit**.
- <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- <sup>4</sup> **Abide** **in** Me, and I **in** you. As the branch cannot bear **fruit** of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Vine = Jesus Christ  
Vinedresser = Father

Branches = Christians  
- Two types – Fruit bearers and non-fruit bearers – **Goal in life is to bear fruit for God**

“in-Christ” – our union with Christ is manifested with Holy Spirit Power when we continually **TRUST** in Jesus & **OBEY** Him as Lord..

## John 15:1-16

# The Vine & the Branches

---

- **2 Sections**
  - **V.1-8** - Remain in the Vine/Jesus = Metaphor
  - **V.9-16** – Remain in Jesus' Love = Commentary on the Vine Metaphor
  - Fruitfulness is the disciple's goal in both passages
  - Vine associates principles such as: Fruitfulness; Dependence; Vital Union; Pruning
- **Key Components**
  - **Vine = Christ, Vinedresser (Gardener) = Father**
  - **2 types of branches**, those that **bear fruit** (pruned by Father) and those that **do not bear fruit** (cut off and burned by Father). Very simple. Very Clear. **Do you bear fruit?**

## John 15:1-2

# “Word Count”

---

- This is one of the most important passages – this is what it means to be **“in-Christ”**.
  - “in” – when it precedes Christ – what it means to be saved. When you trust Christ as saviour you are born again and become a child of God. The Holy Spirit then baptises and indwells you. You are “in-Christ”.
- This is not about Salvation, but about Fruit-Bearing – the result of Salvation
- “Fruit” – occurs 6 times
- “Abide” – occurs 9 times

## John 15:1-2

# Pruning - is Good for Us

---

- V.2 – Jesus is preparing us for **Defection** (fake/apostate followers are cut off), **Discipline** and **Persecution** (pruning)
- V.2 – Vinedresser (Father) Prunes – means cutting – **Heb 12:4-11** – The Lord disciplines those who He loves, that we may share His holiness.
- In your garden, you cut back (prune) the plants and they look like they were destroyed, but then the next spring they grow even better.
- Discipline produces the fruit of righteousness, and **Hebrews 12 tells us that pruning includes PERSECUTION** – John 15:20 – Servant is not greater than his Master—if they persecuted Me, they will persecute you.
- Problems we have in life is the work of the Vinedresser – He is doing whatever it takes in us to produce fruit. **2 Cor 1:8** .
- Moments of loss and desperation is when we are often closest to God

## John 15:1-2

# Pruning - is Good for Us

---

- Prune means to “cleanse” through discipline, chastisement, trials, suffering and tribulation - Romans 5:3; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 2 Peter 1:8
- Success in life is not material wealth, but is when your faith has become refined so it is proved genuine and results in praise, glory and honor.
- Suffering brings the best out in some (rejoicing/thankfulness); it brings the worst out of others (bitterness), depending on the disposition of our heart.
- God will bring fruit out of the most difficult situations.
- **Fruit is things from our lives that feed other people**, fruit not just to be on display. A tree full of fruit is not much use to you; the fruit is to be eaten.
- **Fruit bring things into people’s lives** rather than sucking life out of them because this fruit is designed to feed.
- **Are you feeding others or always wanting to be fed by others?**

## John 15:4-6

# Branches (Disciples) must Bear Fruit

- <sup>4</sup> **Abide in Me, and I in you.** As the branch **cannot bear fruit** of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
- <sup>5</sup> **“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears **much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing.**
- <sup>6</sup> **If anyone does not abide in Me**, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and **throw them into the fire,** and they are burned.
- <sup>8</sup> **By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;** so you will be My disciples.

**Working for God in the Flesh will not bear fruit**

**Fruit is works – tested by Fire – are they wood, hay, stubble or gold and silver– Judgement Seat of Christ – rewards/crowns**  
(1 Cor. 3:10–13; Rom. 14:10-12)

**Fruit must glorify God** – the way to tell if the Spirit of God is Present (15:26)

## John 15:1-8

# Perseverance

---

- Calvinist doctrine called “**perseverance of the saints**” (as opposed to Armenian doctrine which says one can lose their salvation) says that once an individual is saved, he or she will always be saved - that is, cannot regress back into unbelief.
- This means a true Christian will always be able to persevere for God, even unto death.
- If a professing Christian denies His faith, Calvinists believe they were never saved to begin with.
- John 15 is loaded with references to perseverance and conditions such as obedience, the Word and love of God.
  - Abiding emphasizes perseverance
  - John 15: 4 ...unless it abides in the Vine, unless it abides in Me
  - John 15: 5 ....without me you can do nothing
  - John 15: 6...if anyone does not abide in Me
  - John 15: 7...if you abide in Me and my Words abide in you...
  - John 15: 9...abide in My Love
  - John 15: 10...if you keep My commandments
  - John 15: 14...if you do whatever I command you

# John 15:1-8

## **“Fruit”**

---

- **4 Degrees of Fruit-bearing – Col. 1: 5-6; 9-10; Phil 3:12-14**
  1. No Fruit (v.2);
  2. Fruit (v.2);
  3. More Fruit (v.2);
  4. Much Fruit (v.5,8)
- **The sole function of a vine branch is to produce grapes, to bear fruit.** A vine has no secondary function. A vine branch without fruit is worthless.
- Fruit is the outcome of persevering dependence on the Vine, driven by faith and prayer, and embraces all of the believer’s life.
- **Jesus has already identified many superficial followers who claimed to “believe”, but produced no fruit:**
  - **John 2:23-25; 6:66-70; 8:30-32; 12:42-43; 13:10-11; 1 John 3:10, 24; Deut 31:14, 18**



## John 15:1-2

# Types of Fruit - Progressive

---

- 1. Repentance** – genuine sorrow over sin, confession and turning from it – foundational fruit; **Matt 3:7-10; 2 Cor. 7:9-10; Romans 7:4; Matt 7:15-20**
- 2. Christian Character/Attitudes/Virtues** (**Fruit of the Spirit** – Gal. 5:22-23 – Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... not behaviors but attitudes & virtues behind the behavior)
- 3. Conduct** (**Fruit of Righteousness**/Holiness/Obedience/Praise/Worship/Financial Contributions – **Rom. 6:21-22, 15:26; Heb 12:11, 13:15; Phil 1:11, 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 14:14**)
  - Righteous living, Worship of God, Financial help to those in need
- 4. Converts** – Bringing people to Christ (**Rom. 1:13; Col 1:28-29; John 4:34-37; 1 Cor 16:15** – The Great Commission). The most wonderful fruit because it is the outcome of the other fruits and your testimony.
  - **Are you bearing fruit?** Pray about this and how you can be used by God.

# Fruit of Repentance

---

## Matthew 3:7-10

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore **bear fruits worthy of repentance**,... Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

## 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to **repentance**. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. <sup>10</sup> **For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation**, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

# Fruit of Righteousness

---

## Hebrews 12:4-11

<sup>4</sup> ...“My son, do not despise the **chastening** of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup> For whom the LORD loves He **chastens**, And scourges every son whom He receives.” <sup>7</sup> If you endure **chastening**, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not **chasten**? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we have had human fathers who **corrected us**, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they indeed for a few days **chastened us** as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. <sup>11</sup> Now no **chastening** seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable **fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.

# Fruit of Converts

---

## John 15:16

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and **appointed you that you should go and bear fruit**, and *that* your fruit **should remain**,

## Romans 1:13

<sup>13</sup> Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some **fruit** among you also, **just as among the other Gentiles.**

# Fruit of Converts

---

## John 4:34-37

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! <sup>36</sup> And he who reaps receives wages, and **gathers fruit for eternal life**, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’

## Mark 4:20 (Parable of the Sower – Most Important Parable)

<sup>20</sup> But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and **bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”**

## John 15:3

### **3 You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you.**

---

- What does this mean? Why does Jesus say this here, after pruning?
- **Pruning & Cleaning** seem to have similar meanings, in Greek – Prune actually means clean - Supernatural cleansing – through the Word
- Therefore Jesus is saying that the Father prunes every fruitful branch, and you are already clean.
- **Therefore, by virtue of being pruned, you are clean - James 1:2**
- “the word” (**logos**) – the Totality of the teaching that Jesus is God, etc.
- John 5:24 – “whoever hears My Word, and believes Him who sent Me...has passed from death to life” – Judgement and death is behind you – you are home.

## John 15:3

3 **You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you.**

---

### **1 Peter 1:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> Since you have **purified your souls** in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, <sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, **through the Word of God** which lives and abides forever, <sup>24</sup> because “All flesh *is* as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, <sup>25</sup> **But the word of the LORD endures forever.”**

**Now this is the **Word** which by the gospel was preached to you.**

**Psalm 119:9** “How can a young man **cleanse** his way? By taking heed according to Your **Word.**”

**2 Cor. 7:1** “Therefore, having these **promises (Word of God)**, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the **fear of God.**

**John 17:17** “**Sanctify thy self with the Truth, the Word is truth**”

## John 15:4

# Abide in Me, and I in you

---

- **“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”**
- Continuous Communion – cannot live in the world 6 days of the week and come to church on Sunday.
- Friends of Jesus keep His Commandments – don’t get sentimental – Jesus is Lord – Jesus is only a friend if you obey Him as Lord (v.15)
- V.6 – if you do not abide, your works or your fruit are cast into the fire – this is the Judgement Seat of Christ – not your salvation but your works or fruit will count for nothing.
- V.7 – if you do abide, your works will bear good fruit (parable of sower) and you will receive blessing and reward
- Answer to prayer is a good barometer of your abiding in Jesus (v. 7, 16)



## John 15:4

# Abide in Me, and I in you

---

- **“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”**
- “Abide in Me” simply means **“remain”**- develop discipline to do everything for the love of God and His glory
- The spiritual reality of our union with Christ – other metaphors are Sheep/Shepherd; Slave/Master; Body/Head. This metaphor is Vine/Branches
- Conditional – If you remain in Me, I will remain in you. If not, there is a threat that you will not be able to bear fruit which ultimately glorifies God.
- Emphasizes continuous dependence on the Vine
- No branch can bear fruit in itself –Christians/Churches working in the flesh, for selfish motives and by relying on external factors and who merely puts on the appearance of Christian conduct without being impelled from within, brings forth dead fruit.
- “Abiding”= **Salvation – God lives in you**. This is the essence of being a Christian.
- This is really about “being filled with the Spirit” – Ephesians 5:18

## John 15:4-11

# Benefits of Abide in Jesus

---

### 1. Salvation of Your Soul = Eternal Life

- The triune God takes up residence in you – indwelling Holy Spirit
- Someone who does not abide in Christ – is judged to the “fire” (hell)

### 2. Fruitfulness

- The proof that you are true disciple is that you bear fruit (v.8). You will bear more fruit when you are pruned and tested. **Romans 7:4; Matt 7:15-20; Matt 3:7-10**
- Parable of the Sower - not everyone produces the same amount, 30, 60 and 100 fold. The more you focus on Christ (and less on yourself), the more fruitful you become.

### 3. Answered Prayer

- **7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.** also **John 14:13; 16:23**
- If you are not “abiding” and saved, your father is the devil and God has no obligation to answer your prayers. Lord’s Prayer “**Our Father**”...
- You must ask in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as a believer

4. **Love** (v.9 & 10) - The more you trust & obey, the more love Jesus will instill in you.

5. **Joy** (v.11)

## John 15:4

# Filling of the Indwelling Holy Spirit

---

- John 15:4 “**Abide in Me, and I in you.**”

### Remember John Chapter 14?

**John 14:23** - If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**

**John 14:17** - but you know Him, **for He dwells with you and will be in you.**

**John 14:20** - <sup>20</sup> At that day you will know that **I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.**

**Romans 8:10** – **And if Christ is in you**, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

**1 Cor 6:19-20** - <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the **Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. (also 1 Cor 3:16)

## John 15:4

# Abide in Me...SPIRITUAL MEDITATIONS

---

- Speaks to closeness, intimacy and union with Christ
- This may seem beyond reach, disappointing and you may be wandering in the wilderness. Think of the 4 steps to be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Confession; Faith, Obedience; Surrender)
- This passage requires frequent repetition and meditation to grow into this truth – like a child needs repetition to learn.
- This requires **COMPLETE SURRENDER and focus on Christ** – heart & life – this is not a “work” but a yielding to Him to let the Holy Spirit take control, then your “work” with the fruit of Christ’s work in us.
- Matt. 11:28-29 – “Come unto Me...and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me...and you will find rest in your souls.” These are commands of love.
- **No Doctrine here, this is about the heart – Faith – Surrender – Humility – Salvation for Today – Repent & Trust**
- **REMEMBER your experience the day you first came to Christ, and APPLY IT EVERYDAY - it is not a work to be done in the flesh. Surrender to Christ Now.**

# Homework – 1 Hour Audio

---

- Listen to the audio of this timeless classic by a man who knew God and teaches us all how to Abide in Jesus
- This 1 hour Audio will change your spiritual life if you are humble and want to know God better to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQS9mbXJ5UU&t=1153s>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQS9mbXJ5UU&t=1153s>

**Book by Brother Lawrence:** <https://www.basilica.ca/documents/2016/10/Brother%20Lawrence-The%20Practice%20of%20the%20Presence%20of%20God.pdf>

<https://churchleaders.com/pastors/free-resources-pastors/145403-brother-lawrence-free-ebook-the-practice-of-the-presence-of-god.html>