
BRANCHES DON'T BEAR FRUIT ALONE.

John 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Imagery

- The vine is used in the Old Testament to illustrate the people of **Israel** – Psalm 80:8-9, 14-15

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land...¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, ¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

Isaiah 5:7

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!

- Jesus is the true vine, the true Israel – John 15:1
I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

- We are the branches – John 15:5
I am the vine; you are the branches...

Key Truths:

- If Jesus is the true vine then Jesus is the **exclusive** source of life – 15:1
I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

- If the Father is the vinedresser then He is active in His vineyard: **pruning** the fruitful branches and **removing** the unfruitful – 15:2
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

- We can be **associated** with Jesus without being **connected** to Jesus.

- God prunes fruitful branches so that they may increase fruitfulness: Pruning and **productivity** go together – 15:2
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

- Productivity and **joy** are found in abiding in Christ: – 15:4-5
Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- Joy and fruitfulness go together – 15:11
These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

- God desires that our productivity be great so that our joy may be full.

Takeaway questions:

- What/Where do I run to when life presses down on me?
- What sort of fruit is my life bearing?
- Where does my life need to be “pruned” so that I can bear fruit for God?