

Lesson 43 John 15:1-8 I Am the True Vine

Pray: Before you begin lift your heart to God and ask for the Spirit's help as you read the passage and work through these questions in His divine presence and you certainly will be given understanding.

Background

Vineyards and vines: Most farmers in Judea had vineyards along with fig and olive trees. In the vineyard, branches grew from each vine. Grapevines need someone to tend them. They cannot stand upright like other fruit trees but need a skillful hand to guide them along a trellis. The branches draw their sap from the vines. Those tending the vineyard would cut away branches that did not bear fruit so they would not take sap away from those branches which bore fruit. Pruning occurred in 2 different ways. First the farmers pruned fruitful branches so they bore more fruit. Secondly the farmers removed unfruitful branches entirely. Dead, fruitless branches were of no use for carpentry. They could only be burned and used for fuel.

Key Words:

Abide : Strong's G3306 "meno" Abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand
Zodhiates Word Study Dictionary: the relation in which one person or thing stands with another; thus to remain in or with someone. i.e. to be and remain united in heart, mind and will. This meaning is found chiefly in John's writings.

Fruit : Strong's G2590 "karpos" The fruit or produce of the trees and plants of the earth.
Zodhiates Word Study Dictionary: Fruit metaphorically in the New Testament can refer to righteousness, the fruits of the Spirit, or the fruit of sanctification. It can also refer to the fruit and reward of the toil of Christian workers.

Jesus continues speaking to his disciples. They have probably left the Upper Room at this point (John 14: 31). They could possibly be on the way to Gethsemane.

Read John 15:1-8 along with Isaiah 5: 1-7

1. In Isaiah 5:1-7 Isaiah refers to Israel as "the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts" v. 5:7. What kind of "fruit" did it produce and what kind of "fruit" was God looking for? vv. 5:2,4,7

2. What were the consequences for Israel? vv. 5:5,6

3. In John 15:1 Jesus says, I am the "true vine". What kind of fruit does the true vine produce? Phil. 1:9-11

4. In 15:1 what does Jesus call the Father? In 15:2 what does the Father do to the branches? ? (See also Hebrew 12:10-11)

Application: Have you ever experienced the Father's "pruning" in your life? Share how he "pruned" you and what was the result?

5. Jesus first reminds the disciples they are clean (their sins are forgiven). Then He tells them to to abide in Him and also tells them He will abide in them. According to 15:4 and 15:5 what will be the result of the abiding?

6. According to 15:5-6 what is the result of not abiding?

Application: What does it personally mean to you to abide in Christ? What evidence do you see in your life that you are abiding in Christ?

7. In 15:7-8 what are additional results of abiding in Christ?

Application:In 15:7 we see a relationship between abiding in Christ, the word of God and prayer? Can you explain this in your own words? How have you experienced this in your walk with the Lord?

8. If we "bear much fruit" what sin do we often struggle with? (See Isaiah 42:8)