

# The Gospel of John: The True Vine

*John 15:1-25*

## The Vine & Branches (v. 1-8)

- After Jesus has left the upper room in Jerusalem, He leads His disciples toward the Garden of Gethsemane through the vineyards and orchards on the outskirts of the city
- He uses His surroundings to teach, calling on the OT imagery of vines which were repeatedly used to correct a fruitless Israel (Ps 80:9–16; Is 5:1–7; 27:2ff.; Jer 2:21; 12:10ff.; Ezk 15:1–8; 17:1–21; 19:10–14; Hos 10:1–2)
  - Jesus is the true vine, the faithful incarnation of what Israel was intended to be
- The Father is the gardener who:
  - Prunes the fruitful branches
    - Dealing with sin in us so we bear greater fruit
  - Cuts off the fruitless branches
    - They are gathered and burned (v. 6)
      - This is who assume their status in God's people but show no evidence of it (Ezk 15:1-8)
- We are the branches, joining God's true covenant people through our connection to Jesus
  - Our job is to bear fruit, which is only possible when we *stay* connected to Jesus
    - Because it is His Spirit's work in us (Gal 5:22-23)

## Bearing Fruit (v. 9-17)

- The fruit that we are to bear is demonstrated for us by the Father & the Son
  - We are to love one another as God loves us
- Jesus clarifies that our status has changed from servants to friends
  - He demonstrates His friendship by:
    - He is including us in His plans
    - Laying down His life for us
  - We demonstrate our friendship by obeying His command to love others like Him
  - Jesus chooses us so that we can be fruitful for Him
- When we are part of Jesus' mission, we can ask for whatever we need for that mission, and He will provide it (v. 7, 16)

## In Good Company (v. 18-25)

- Jesus encourages us that if we act like He does, we should expect to be treated like He was
  - Being met with hatred & persecution
- Jesus shows the world God's righteousness
  - Rejecting Him leaves the world stuck in their sin
  - Jesus cites David's words to connect this maltreatment with the Messianic mission (Ps 35:19; 69:4; 109:3)
- When we reflect Jesus to others, they may respond with curiosity or contempt

## So What?

- Are we staying connected to Jesus?
- Are we bearing the fruit by loving others like Jesus loves us?
- When mistreated for representing Christ, do we respond with anger, despair, or God-given joy?

**Meditation Verse:** John 15:5

**Next Week:** John 15:26-16:15