

From John Chapter 15:1-11  
The Vine Discourse (Abide 10 times) (Fruit 6 times)

15 "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 bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are 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 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also 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 so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

## When:

In time, the Vine Discourse occurs after Jesus and the disciples leave the upper room and travel down the Valley of Kidron and up the Mount of Olives and toward the Garden of Gethsemane.

At that time, there were vineyards surrounding Jerusalem and the group would have moved through or along side those vineyards as they walked toward Gethsemane. Seeing the vineyards may have brought this discussion to the mind of Jesus.

Time was growing very short and yet he was still sharing and teaching His disciples.

## Key points in the Discourse:

### **1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.**

The True Vine – Jesus said he was the true vine. In the Old Testament Israel was referred to as the vine. Jesus is saying that He is the true Israel. Israel was not Rabbis and descendents of Abraham. It was not heritage. It was the true family of God, represented by the only begotten Son of the Father.

The Vine Dresser – God (Jesus' Father) is the vine dresser. The vineyard and the vines belong to Him and He will deal with Israel as he chooses. Based on His evaluation of the vine, he will prune, dress or lift up the vine as He sees fit.

### **2 Every branch in Me ....**

The branches in the vine – Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches in the vine. Some of us are strong, vital and productive. We are the strength of the vine and the hope for fruit from the vine. Some of us are weak, diseased and unproductive. We only hinder the rest of the vine, pulling from it with no return to the vine. As far as production of fruit is concerned, we are of no use to the vine.

### **2 ... and every *branch* that bears fruit,**

Bearing fruit – The purpose of the vine is to produce fruit. As far as the vine is concerned, fruit serves one function – reproduction. Bearing fruit for the pleasure of the one who owns the vineyard and for reproduction is the sole function of the vine. Without fruit, the vine is useless.

Fruit: - Reproduction of the character of Jesus Christ – Converts to Christ – A gift to God.

Galatians 5:22-23 – 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Ephesians 5:8-10 - 8for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Philippians 1:11 11having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Colossians 1:10 - so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Hebrews 2:11 - All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 13:15 - Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

James 1:18 - In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

James 3:18 - And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Romans 1:13 - I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:19-20 - 19If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 20But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

**<sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.**

To Abide – to dwell, remain with over time, to take up residence with, maintain a close personal (intimate) relationship with. Abiding is a relationship that involves love, trust, reliance. And so we abide with Jesus as the branches abide with the vine.

From Author Andrew Murray – “When Jesus said “Come to me” (Matthew 11:28) you may not have understood he meant “and stay with me.”

What is abiding? You in me and I in you?

Why does the branch need the vine to produce fruit?

Important! – Jesus is the vine. We are the branches.

Apart from Me, you can do nothing.

What is the function of the Vine?

What is the function of the branches?

**<sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away;**

**<sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.**

Fruitless branches are useless.

Fruitless branches are only good for casting away.

This is the judgment of those who do not abide in Jesus.

## Questions:

1 - Why would a vine produce no fruit?

- Immaturity – simply too young, with not enough exposure to the vine
- Deformity, Disease – Brokenness, Blight, (sin), leading to a failure to grow and produce
- Poor care – No attention to the condition of the vine
- No act of fertility – No union has been accomplished that produces reproduction

2 - Regarding Fruit, there is a Progression, a Process and a Product

A. What is the Progression of Fruit?

- o No fruit (does not bear fruit)

**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away;**

The branches that do not bear fruit will be cut away. Fruit is the purpose of the vine. It serves no other function except for fruit for the vinemaster.

The Greek word “airo”, translated here as “takes away” also means “lifts up”. In viniculture the vinedresser lifts up a branch from the dirt and supports it above the ground so that it will produce fruit.

What (dirt) would the vinedresser lift us up from?

What causes us to droop into the dirt?

- Bears Fruit

**every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it**

If we bear fruit, we will be pruned, If we do not bear fruit, we will be cut away.

For whom does the vine produce fruit? (Itself? Or Others)

- Bear more Fruit

**He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.**

The act of pruning (cutting away that which hinders the vine) causes the vine to produce more fruit.

To prune (Greek – Cleanses) to remove unneeded or excess parts, One prunes to remove excess leaves, stems or suckers. A vintner prunes to improve the yield of fruit from the vine.

Look at the action of “Every branch that is in me” verse 1 and “if anyone does not abide in me” in verse 6.

- Bears Much Fruit

**<sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

**<sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.**

As we bear fruit, we prove ourselves to be His disciples. Fruit is the fruit of discipleship. In our discipleship, we abide in Jesus and he abides in us and we produce much fruit. This glorifies the Father.

B. What is the Process of producing Fruit?

- 1 Cleansing – The branches of the vine must remain clean to be productive. Soiling of the branches hinders growth, vitality, health and fruit production. We are the branches of the vine and the word of Christ and the actions of the Holy Spirit clean us. He lifts us up from the dirt and keeps us clean. The dirt is harmful to the branches, bringing disease to the branch. Because of this, the branch must be tended (lifted up) and cleaned to remain productive.

**<sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.**

We have been cleansed and lifted up by the word.

The word of the Lord makes us clean (justified), but it does not guarantee fruit. Christians seem to be fixed on what it takes to get to Heaven, but Christianity is more involved with

becoming more like Jesus. It is a process of changing us to become more like Christ or transforming us so that we may live out the life of Christ in the World

The Christian Life is:

- A transforming relationship
- A changing relationship
- A growth relationship
- A developing relationship
- A maturing relationship
- A growth toward righteousness and sanctification.
- Look at the word as an agent:
  - o To make us clean. Verse 3
  - o For Abundant Fruitfulness Verse 7

We are to be rooted in the communion He has with us through His Word.

- 2 Abiding We abide in Him and He in us. Without abiding with the vine, the branch can produce no fruit. As we abide in Christ and He in us, We produce 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, so 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, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.**

Just as the Father has loved Jesus, Jesus has loved us. Our blessing and need is to abide in the love of Christ Jesus. His desire is that we do that.

- 3 Obedience (obeying) - We obey his commandments

**<sup>10</sup> 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.**

Obedience is key to our health. Just as Christ honors the Father by keeping His commandments, we also abide on the love of Christ by following His commandments.

## The Promise of Jesus to those who Abide in Him

**<sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.**

There is a condition of the relationship = you abiding in Me and My words abiding in you.

When that relationship holds and we ask “whatever you wish” = praying in alignment with His will.

**“it will be done for you.”**

Why would Jesus do this?

**<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.**

Product = Fruit = A life that glorifies God = a sanctified life = A life in step with Jesus =  
Righteousness = A life with true meaning.

What is proof of true discipleship? (much fruit)

The commitment of Christ to us (His disciples) and how we should respond to Him:

**<sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> 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.**

If we keep his commandments = obedience

Why Obedience?

- Not to grow closer, but because we are close.
- Not to abide, but because we abide
- Not to prove we love him, but because we love him

We abide in His love if we keep His commandments and love others as He loved us.

Why does Jesus make this commitment to us?

**<sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.**

He wants to have Joy in us.

He wants our Joy to be made full.