

“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.”

John 15:5

The Vine and the Branches

The Vine and the Branches

Let's set the scene:

The Vine and the Branches

Last Supper is over.

The Vine and the Branches

Last Supper is over.

Judas is gone.

The Vine and the Branches

Last Supper is over.

Judas is gone.

Jesus had washed His disciple's feet.

The Vine and the Branches

Last Supper is over.

Judas is gone.

Jesus had washed His disciple's feet.

The disciples debated among themselves as to who was the greatest in His kingdom.

The Vine and the Branches

Last Supper is over.

Judas is gone.

Jesus had washed His disciple's feet.

The disciples debated among themselves as to who was the greatest in His kingdom.

The Garden and the Cross were before Him.

John 15:1-8

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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.

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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.

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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.

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to 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.”

John 15:1-8

“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.

John 15:1-8

“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.

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.”

John 15:1-8

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

The Vine and the Branches

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Last week we looked at two characters in this teaching: Jesus as the True Vine and His Father as the Vinedresser.

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Today, we'll look at the focus of this teaching: the Branches, You and Me, and what it means to "Abide".

The Vine and the Branches

The Vine and the Branches

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

The Vine and the Branches

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John 15:1

The Vine and the Branches

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

This is the last of the “I am” statements of Jesus that give structure to the Gospel of John.

“I AM” Statements

“I AM” Statements

“I am the Bread of Life” – John 6:35

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“I am the Light of the World” – John 8:12

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“I am the Good Shepherd” – John 10:12

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“I am the Bread of Life” – John 6:35

“I am the Light of the World” – John 8:12

“I am the Door” – John 10:7

“I am the Good Shepherd” – John 10:12

“I am the Resurrection and the Life” – John 11:25

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“I am the Door” – John 10:7

“I am the Good Shepherd” – John 10:12

“I am the Resurrection and the Life” – John 11:25

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” – John 14:5

“I AM” Statements

“I am the Bread of Life” – John 6:35

“I am the Light of the World” – John 8:12

“I am the Door” – John 10:7

“I am the Good Shepherd” – John 10:12

“I am the Resurrection and the Life” – John 11:25

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” – John 14:5

Finally...

“I am the True Vine” – John 15:1

“I Am the True Vine”

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

“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.”

John 15:5

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

“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.”

John 15:5

“I Am the True Vine”

The central truth our Lord wanted us to know in this section is the importance of “abiding” in Him, like a branch does to a vine.

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the **true** vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the **true** vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

The word “true” means a contrast between:

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the **true** vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

The word “true” means a contrast between:
“what is real and a type or symbol”, or

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the **true** vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

The word “true” means a contrast between:

“what is real and a type or symbol”, or

“what is perfect as distinct from imperfect”, or

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the **true** vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

The word “true” means a contrast between:

“what is real and a type or symbol”, or

“what is perfect as distinct from imperfect”, or

“what is genuine rather than what is counterfeit”.

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the **true** vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the **true** vine, and **My Father is the vinedresser.**”

John 15:1

Let's begin by looking at what this teaching says about Jesus and our relationship with Him.

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the **true** vine, and **My Father is the vinedresser.**”

John 15:1

Let's begin by looking at what this teaching says about Jesus and our relationship with Him.

And we'll do this by identifying the characters and seeing their relationship together.

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember,

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember,
Jesus is the Vine

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember,

Jesus is the Vine

God the Father is the Vinedresser

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember,

Jesus is the Vine

God the Father is the Vinedresser

You and I are the Branches

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember,

Jesus is the Vine

God the Father is the Vinedresser

You and I are the Branches

But the key is the Fruit.

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember,

Jesus is the Vine

God the Father is the Vinedresser

You and I are the Branches

But the key is the Fruit.

Or, more specifically, “More or Much Fruit”

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

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“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

Now, the focus turns to the branches or branch.

“I Am the True Vine”

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

John 15:1

Now, the focus turns to the branches or branch.

And it begins with the negative,
(since the positive is assumed).

“I Am the True Vine”

“Every (all) branch (You and Me) in Me (Vine) that does not bear fruit He (Father) takes away (take up, lift up, raise, remove); and every (all) branch (You and Me) that bears fruit He (Father) prunes (clean, make pure, to cleanse from filth, without stain or spot), that it (Branch) may bear more fruit.”

John 15:2

“I Am the True Vine”

“Every (all) branch (You and Me) in Me (Vine) that does not bear fruit He (Father) takes away (take up, lift up, raise, remove); and every (all) branch (You and Me) that bears fruit He (Father) prunes (clean, make pure, to cleanse from filth, without stain or spot), that it (Branch) may bear more fruit.”

John 15:2

Note: The purpose is always for more fruit.

“I Am the True Vine”

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Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you (bear fruit), unless you abide in Me.”

John 15:4

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot **bear fruit** of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you (bear fruit), unless you abide in Me.”

John 15:4

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot **bear fruit** of itself, unless it abides in the vine, **neither can you** (bear fruit), unless you abide in Me.”

John 15:4

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“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.”

John 15:5

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“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.”

John 15:5

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

John 15:8

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“By this My Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.”

John 15:8

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“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, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:16

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“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, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:16

“I Am the True Vine”

Note what Jesus says about fruit:

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Note what Jesus says about fruit:

“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**, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:16

So what does all this mean for you and me?

“I Am the True Vine”

“I Am the True Vine”

Now, because of their faith in Christ and their embracing Him as the Word, there is no excuse for them not bearing fruit, much fruit, in order to glorify the Father.

“I Am the True Vine”

Now, because of their faith in Christ and their embracing Him as the Word, there is no excuse for them not bearing fruit, much fruit, in order to glorify the Father.

Or,

Now, because of our faith in Christ and our embracing Him as the Word, there is no excuse for each of us not bearing fruit, much fruit, in order to glorify the Father.

“I Am the True Vine”

“You (Branch) are already clean because of the word which I (Vine) have spoken to you (Branch).”

John 15:3

“I Am the True Vine”

“You (Branch) are already clean because of the word which I (Vine) have spoken to you (Branch).”

John 15:3

So how do we bear much fruit?

“I Am the True Vine”

“You (Branch) are already clean because of the word which I (Vine) have spoken to you (Branch).”

John 15:3

So how do we bear much fruit?

How do we glorify and please the Father?

“I Am the True Vine”

“Abide in Me (Vine), and I (Vine) in you (Branch).
As the branch (You and Me) cannot bear fruit of itself,
unless it abides in the vine (Jesus), neither can you
(Branch), unless you (Branch) abide in Me (Vine).”

John 15:4

“I Am the True Vine”

“Abide in Me (Vine), and I (Vine) in you (Branch).
As the branch (You and Me) cannot bear fruit of itself,
unless it abides in the vine (Jesus), neither can you
(Branch), unless you (Branch) abide in Me (Vine).”

John 15:4

What does it mean to “abide” in Him?

“I Am the True Vine”

“Abide in Me (Vine), and I (Vine) in you (Branch).
As the branch (You and Me) cannot bear fruit of itself,
unless it abides in the vine (Jesus), neither can you
(Branch), unless you (Branch) abide in Me (Vine).”

John 15:4

What does it mean to “abide” in Him?

How can we be like a branch resting in the vine?

“I Am the True Vine”

“Abide in Me (Vine), and I (Vine) in you (Branch).
As the branch (You and Me) cannot bear fruit of itself,
unless it abides in the vine (Jesus), neither can you
(Branch), unless you (Branch) abide in Me (Vine).”

John 15:4

“I Am the True Vine”

“Abide in Me (Vine), and I (Vine) in you (Branch).
As the branch (You and Me) cannot bear fruit of itself,
unless it abides in the vine (Jesus), neither can you
(Branch), unless you (Branch) abide in Me (Vine).”

John 15:4

Notice how often this word is used by our Lord.

“I Am the True Vine”

Abide (*ménō*) simply means:

“to remain, dwell, live”

“I Am the True Vine”

Abide (*ménō*) simply means:

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But in John’s writings it deals more with the relationship of one thing or person with another, thus to “remain in or with someone.”

“I Am the True Vine”

Abide (*ménō*) simply means:
“to remain, dwell, live”

But in John’s writings it deals more with the relationship of one thing or person with another, thus to “remain in or with someone.”

In John 15 it means “to be and remain united with Jesus, one with Him in heart, mind, and will, and to remain steadfast, unwavering in that relationship.”

“I Am the True Vine”

“Abide (remain united with Him in heart, mind, and will, to remain steadfast and unwavering in that relationship) in Me, and I (abide) in you.”

John 15:4a

“I Am the True Vine”

“As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides (remain united with Him in heart, mind, and will, to remain steadfast and unwavering in that relationship) in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide (remain united with Him in heart, mind, and will, to remain steadfast and unwavering in that relationship) in Me.”

John 15:4b

“I Am the True Vine”

The branch must abide in the vine.

“I Am the True Vine”

The branch must abide in the vine.

And if it doesn't, it cannot bear fruit, which is the only reason the branch exists.

“I Am the True Vine”

The branch must abide in the vine.

And if it doesn't, it cannot bear fruit, which is the only reason the branch exists.

The branch (you and me) must remain connected, steadfast and unwavering in the vine (Jesus), united, totally focused and dependent in heart, mind, and will, in order to bear fruit.

“I Am the True Vine”

The branch must abide in the vine.

And if it doesn't, it cannot bear fruit, which is the only reason the branch exists.

The branch (you and me) must remain connected, steadfast and unwavering in the vine (Jesus), united, totally focused and dependent in heart, mind, and will, in order to bear fruit.

There is no other way.

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Christ?

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Christ?

Are you focused on Him and Him alone?

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Christ?

Are you focused on Him and Him alone?

Or is He just first on your list of things you have devoted your life to?

“I Am the True Vine”

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Are you focused on Him and Him alone?

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Job, family, retirement, wealth, ministry, etc.

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Christ?

Are you focused on Him and Him alone?

Or is He just first on your list of things you have devoted your life to?

Job, family, retirement, wealth, ministry, etc.

Remember, the Father is not concerned with these aspects of the branch, but only that it bears much fruit.

“I Am the True Vine”

Now Jesus makes it personal.

“I Am the True Vine”

Now Jesus makes it personal.

“I (Jesus) am the vine, you are the branches.
He (Branch) who abides in Me (Vine), and I (Vine) in
him (Branch), bears much fruit; for without Me (Vine)
you (Branch) can do nothing.”

John 15:5

“I Am the True Vine”

Now Jesus makes it personal.

“I (Jesus) am the vine, you are the branches.
He (Branch) who abides in Me (Vine), and I (Vine) in
him (Branch), bears much fruit; for without Me (Vine)
you (Branch) can do nothing.”

John 15:5

Note the finality of His statement.

“I Am the True Vine”

Let's read the bad news before closing.

“I Am the True Vine”

Let's read the bad news before closing.

“If anyone (Branch) does not abide in Me (Vine), he (Branch) is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

“I Am the True Vine”

Let's read the bad news before closing.

“If anyone (Branch) does not abide in Me (Vine), he (Branch) is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

Who does the casting out?

“I Am the True Vine”

Let's read the bad news before closing.

“If anyone (Branch) does not abide in Me (Vine), he (Branch) is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

Who does the casting out?

And who are “they” who gather them for burning?

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember, the only function of a branch is to bear fruit (more fruit, much fruit).

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember, the only function of a branch is to bear fruit (more fruit, much fruit).

And this is only accomplished by abiding in the Vine.

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember, the only function of a branch is to bear fruit (more fruit, much fruit).

And this is only accomplished by abiding in the Vine.

Our only function is to allow the Lord to bring glory to His Father through us.

“I Am the True Vine”

Remember, the only function of a branch is to bear fruit (more fruit, much fruit).

And this is only accomplished by abiding in the Vine.

Our only function is to allow the Lord to bring glory to His Father through us.

And this is only accomplished by choosing, on a minute by minute basis, to remain united with Him in heart, mind, and will, to remain steadfast and unwavering in that relationship.

“I Am the True Vine”

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Him?

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Him?

Do you live for the purpose of bearing more and more fruit, whatever the personal costs, for His glory?

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Him?

Do you live for the purpose of bearing more and more fruit, whatever the personal costs, for His glory?

Or are you fearful of the pruning process and what you might have to have removed that detracts from bearing His fruit?

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Him?

Do you live for the purpose of bearing more and more fruit, whatever the personal costs, for His glory?

Or are you fearful of the pruning process and what you might have to have removed that detracts from bearing His fruit?

Once again, the only purpose of the branch is to bear the fruit from the vine.

“I Am the True Vine”

Does this describe your relationship with Him?

Do you live for the purpose of bearing more and more fruit, whatever the personal costs, for His glory?

Or are you fearful of the pruning process and what you might have to have removed that detracts from bearing His fruit?

Once again, the only purpose of the branch is to bear the fruit from the vine.

What does that say about our life here and now?

John 15:1-8

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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.

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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.

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

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You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to 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.”

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