

SERMON OUTLINE John 15:1-11

I Am the True Vine - Part 1

THE SETTING

The Immediate Location

A Vineyard

THE FATHER AS VINEDRESSER (1)

JESUS AS THE TRUE VINE (1)

Israel as the Vine

Jesus as the True Vine

DISCIPLES AS BRANCHES (2-11)

1. *Fruitless branches are cut off (2, 6)*

2. *Fruitful branches are pruned for greater fruitfulness (2)*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that the Christian life is about abiding in Jesus in such a way that His mind, heart, and actions flow freely out of us, and all according to the grace and superintending of God. And the main takeaway, therefore, is to seek the Spirit's help to abide in Jesus and to be shaped in every way by the person and promises of Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Do you have any experience working with vines? Have you ever tried to grow vine-fruit? What was it like?
3. When you consider God as vinedresser, what comes to mind? Are there any ways that it is particularly encouraging or discouraging to think of God as superintending your life and growth in Jesus?
4. When you come across passages like this one in your Bible—passages that are built so clearly and significantly on OT ideas and promises—how does it strengthen your faith in God and trust in His Word? Is it easy for you to see the connections?
5. Which of Jesus' "I am" statements in John most stirs you to worship and obedience?
6. Talk through the three different roles in this passage: Vine, branches, and vinedresser. What stands out?
7. Have you ever witnessed a fruitless branch being cut off? What happened? Did it seem like a blessing?
8. Name a time in which you've felt the pruning work of God in your life? How'd He do it? What was the result?
9. Are there any ways in which your belief in your eternal life truly impacted your life last week?
10. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

11. What is one thing you have done or intend to do differently as a result of this text/sermon?
12. Plant some grape vines this spring. Use the vinedressing time to meditate on this verse. Share the fruit with your DG.
13. Come to Pastor Dave's house and cut down the tree-killing vines (just kidding [sort of] to see if you're reading this).
14. Spend some time reading through Psalm 80 and Isaiah 5. Share any connections you make between them and John 15.
15. Consider the fruit God's Word calls you to bear. Ask God and someone in your family or DG to help you bear it in Jesus.
16. Find a way to support someone who is being "pruned" by God through trial. Pray for them and with them, remind them of God's promises to bear more fruit through it, and help them to turn their lamentations to God in prayer and praise.
17. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
18. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

19. Adoration. Praise God for being the Vinedresser and the True Vine. Praise God for being the Superintendent of all things. Praise God for being righteous, wise, and sovereign. Praise God for being glorious and glorified in all He does.
20. Confess. Confess any bad or fake fruit you know of in your life. Confess any ways you've tried to replace God as vinedresser or Jesus as the vine. Confess any ways you've resented God's vinedressing or Jesus' nourishment.
21. Thanksgiving. Thank God for His blessings, whatever form they've taken recently. Thank God for giving you life through Christ, sustaining your life in Him, and making you righteous. Thank God for your brothers and sisters in Christ.
22. Supplication. Ask God to bring comfort along with His pruning work in your life and the life of others. Ask God to make unbelieving believers readily apparent. Ask God to help us love the blessings He gives more than the ones He doesn't.