

STUDY #40

Jesus the True Vine

John 15:1-8

John's Purpose Statement:

"³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30-31

→ Review

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

→ Read vs. 1-3

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

1. Based on the context, who is Jesus speaking to?
2. Here we see the analogy of the vine. Who make up the 4 components?

The vine: _____

The vinedresser: _____

The *fruitless* branches: _____

The *fruitful* branches: _____

3. What is the significance of Jesus saying that He is the "true" vine? See the following verses:

Psalm 80:8 "You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it."

Jeremiah 2:21 "Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?"

4. What happens to the branches that do *not* bear fruit?
5. What happens to the branches that *do* bear fruit? Why is this necessary?
6. Who is Jesus specifically talking to in vs. 3? What does He mean when He says “already you are clean?”

→ Read vs. 4-6

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

1. Define the word “abide” based on the metaphor of the passage.
2. How do branches bear fruit? (vs 4-5)
3. Can believers do anything of spiritual value apart from Christ? See Galatians 2:20
Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
4. What happens to those who do not abide in Christ? (vs 6) Look also at Matthew 13:49-50
Matthew 13:49-50 “So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
5. Who are the branches that do not bear fruit? Observe the following verses:
Matthew 13:18-22 “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown

in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”

1 John 2:19 “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.”

Hebrews 3:12 “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.”

→ Read vs. 7-8

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

1. Again, we see the theme to “abide”. In light of this, what promise does Jesus give? (vs 7)
2. What conditions must first be met in order for this promise of answered prayer to take place? (vs 7)
Also, refer back to John 14:13-14

John 14:13-14 “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

3. How does Jesus say His Father is glorified?
4. What characterizes a true disciple? See the following verses:

Psalm 1:1-3 “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸ He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Philippians 1:11 “filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Colossians 1:10 “so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

5. What is the “fruit”? Look at the following verses:

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

Ephesians 5:8-10 “for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”

1 Peter 2:21 “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.”

TEACHING NOTES

1. The Significance of the True Vine (15:1-3)

2. The Importance of Abiding in the Vine (15:4-6)

3. The Result of Abiding in the Vine (15:7-8)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you learn about the Christian life from Jesus' illustration of the vine and the branches? How does this help or challenge you?
2. Are you truly "abiding in the Vine"? How are you drawing your life nutrients and strength from Him daily so that He is able to produce His fruit in your life?
3. Reflect on a time in your life when you experienced God's "pruning". How did God use this to increase your spiritual growth?
4. Can you see Christ bearing fruit in you today? In what areas of your life are you bearing fruit and where are you lacking?