

# Men's Breakfast - Jesus the Vine



1. What plant best describes you now: Towering oak? Weeping willow? Tumbleweed? Crab apple tree? Explain.
2. What are the marks of a true friendship?
3. What do you do to maintain your friendships?

## John 15:1-17 (NIV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [2] He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he **prunes** so that it will be even more fruitful. [3] You are already **clean** because of the word I have spoken to you. [4] Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

[5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [7] If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. [8] This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

[9] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. [10] If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. [17] This is my command: Love each other.

**DISCUSSION:** They left the upper room and were likely walking to the garden of Gethsemane, likely passed through a vineyard. Here Jesus stopped and use the vine to illustrate his comments.

1. What might be the relationship to the Isaiah and Psalm Passages on the back and this one?
2. How are Jesus and the Father related? ([15:1](#))
3. What is Jesus and who is the Father? ([15:1](#))
4. How does the gardener tend to the branches that bear fruit and the branches that do not? ([15:2](#))
5. What did Jesus say the branches must do in order to bear fruit? ([15:4](#))
6. What might be the kind of fruit talked about? (See Galatians on the back?)
7. Who are the branches? ([15:5](#))
8. What did Jesus say would happen to the branches that did not remain in Him? ([15:6](#))

9. What privilege was given to the branches that remained in the vine? ([15:7](#))

10. What would be demonstrated by the disciples' bearing much fruit? ([15:8](#))

11. Think about a real vineyard - most take about 5 years of work before they bear fruit and the fruit crop is seasonal, how does this impact the illustration?

12. If vine branches were human lives, what pain would be associated with pruning? What tools? What fruit?

13. The Greek text of this passage shows that the word translated as "clean" in verse 3 is the same root word as prunes in verse 2 (katharoi-kathairei) - how does this change the meaning of the discussion or does it?

14. What did Jesus urge His disciples to do? ([15:9](#))

15. How were Jesus' disciples to remain in His love? ([15:10](#))

16. Why did Jesus talk with His disciples about vines and branches? ([15:11](#))

17. What can we the branches do on our own without the vine?

18. What command did Jesus give His disciples? ([15:12](#))

19. \*What is the greatest manifestation of love? ([15:13](#))

20. Who did Jesus say were His friends? ([15:14](#))

21. What does Jesus say about his relationship with his disciples

22. \*Why did Jesus call His disciples friends? ([15:15](#))

23. Why did Jesus choose His disciples? ([15:16](#))

24. What was Jesus' command? ([15:17](#))

25. What does this passage teach us about being loved by God?

26. What does it teach us about loving others?

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)** 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**Psalms 80:8-19 (NIV)** You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. 9 You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. 10 The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. 11 It sent out its boughs to the Sea, its shoots as far as the River. 12 Why have you broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its grapes? 13 Boars from the forest ravage it and the creatures of the field feed on it. 14 Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, 15 the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself. 16 Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;

at your rebuke your people perish. 17 Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. 18 Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. 19 Restore us, O LORD God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

**Isaiah 5:1-7 (NIV)** 1 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. 2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. 3 "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes,

why did it yield only bad? 5 Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. 6 I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it." 7 The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

#### **REFLECTION:**

1. As a branch on Christ's vine, how would you describe the fruit in your life: Grade A—1? Juicy? Green? Wormy? Why?
2. Do you feel more like Jesus' servant or his friend? What helps develop the friendship?
3. What is more difficult for you—showing love or receiving love? Explain
4. What barriers are you aware of that stand in the way of your knowing that you are loved by God?
5. How are we to remain in Jesus? Why?
6. What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian?
7. How are we to bear fruit?
8. When is it difficult to develop and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus?
9. In what way has God been removing "dead" or useless pieces from your character?
10. In what way is your joy complete?
11. When do you struggle with loving others the way Jesus has loved you?

12. What kind of friend are you to Jesus?
13. Why is it hard to be Jesus' friend?



*Praise Jesus who is the true vine and the Father who is the gardener. Thank you for the life you produce in us and for the fruit that lasts forever. Father we long to be fruitful. We ask you for the fruit of love and ask you to show us how to love others more completely. Thank you for keeping us connected to Christ and your love.*