

**Introduction:**

- John 15:1-10
- There are three main parts of this allegory: The Vinedresser. The Vine. The branches.
  - The Father is the vinedresser.
  - Jesus is the vine.
  - Believers are the branches.
- I want to give attention to Jesus words about the Father as the vinedresser. The Father is the vine dresser. It's the vine dressers job to see to the health and productivity of the vineyard. The vinedresser is the caretaker...He is quality control.
  - Jesus said, *If you have seen me you have seen the Father*. Meaning that He wants the Father to be seen and understood.
  - So the question is: What is Jesus revealing about the Father in this passage? He is good! There are five major things revealed about the vinedresser in John 15.

**I. The Vinedresser Repositions The Vine.** 15:2a. The Father repositions us.

- A. Ie. Picture of vine growing quickly. Vines naturally grow up, out and down like a flowing fountain. If left to itself the vine would grow towards the ground and become diseased, more vulnerable to pests, etc. Therefore it needs to be repositioned. Man is the same in many ways. Left to himself he sinks back to the dust from which he came. There he becomes disease, vulnerable to demonic pests, etc.
1. Grape vines take lots of work to be fruitful.
  2. They have to be planted, grafted, watered, fed, pruned, etc.
  3. In spring the vines grow quickly requiring regular pruning.
- B. *'He takes away'* - Greek airo. "The meanings are "to lift from the ground," "to lift in order to carry," and "to carry off." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume (p. 28). W.B. Eerdmans. There are actually two thoughts here:
1. One, to carry away. *"Every 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."* (John 15:2, ESV)
  2. Two, to lift up. *"He cares for the branches connected to me by lifting and propping up the fruitless branches and pruning every fruitful branch to yield a greater harvest."* (John 15:2, TPT)
  3. If the vine is growing towards the ground the Vinedresser lifts it up or repositions it for fruitfulness! Taking away the branch ends its productivity. Propping it up assists in productivity.
  4. It reminds me of the Holy Spirits job to stake himself up to us so that we draw strength from him. We access Him by abiding in Christ.
- C. God often repositions us after times of accelerated growth.

**II. The Vinedresser Prunes The Branches** 15:2b. The Father prunes us.

- A. He prunes us for the purpose of us bearing more fruit.
  - 1. When something is pruned it is cut off and removed.
  - 2. There are times when God will have to remove things that are hindering our fruitfulness.
  - 3. It might be someone or something in our life that hinders us from bearing fruit. The Father does this pruning because He loves us and wants us to 'shine'.
  - 4. I.e. Fishing with the grands. I told them where to fish (I took away all other options), showed them how to fish (right way and wrong way), and at last showed them how to tie their own hooks (I separated them from need of me)...All so that they could catch fish...be fruitful.
- B. The Greek word for 'prune' is: katharizo - to cleans or to make clean.
  - 1. *"let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."* (Hebrews 10:22, ESV)
  - 2. I.e. I don't know anything about grapes but I can speak for tomatoes. As they grow tomatoes produce 'suckers'. These are branches that use up the plants strength to produce fruit. They are green branches on the tomato that suck the life away from the fruit. They have to be cut off to produce fruit.
- C. There are things in our lives that cause us to look very green and luscious but they are only sucking the life away from us producing good fruit. They are diverting precious resource that was meant for fruit so the Father has to remove them. Do you see His heart for us?
  - 1. "Branches that are convinced that comfort is the objective, resent the pain of the Vinedresser's pruning. Branches that know that fruit bearing is the POINT, see the pruning as an act of help and assistance." Randal Smith.
  - 2. Pruning is not discipline from the Father. Pruning is for the purpose of more fruit.

**III. The Vinedresser Removes Dead Branches** 15:6 Father removes dead things from our lives. It is His nature to do this!

- A. *"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."* (John 15:6, ESV)
  - 1. This is a weighty passage no matter how you read it. Because the Father is serious about us abiding in His Son and bearing fruit.
    - a) Some read it as: if you do not have fruit you will be tossed into the fire and burned. If fruit is the proof of salvation, I would say that is true.
    - b) Other read it as: you will be saved but as barely getting in. *"If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."* (1 Corinthians 3:15, ESV)

- B. Fruit is the ultimate proof of abiding. Anyone can look at their own lives and tell if they are fruitful or not. Why would a Christian want a fruitless life? Or, Why would you, being fruitless, want to lie to yourself saying you are saved and yet fruit is the proof of that salvation?
- C. God is a life giving God! Zoe! What is dead is separated from Him!

#### IV. The Vinedresser Glories In Fruit! 15:8

- A. The more fruit we produce the more God glories in that fruit. IE. It makes him a very proud 'Papa!' "That's my child!" You can hear the delight of God in our bearing of fruit!
  - 1. *"but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love."* (Psalm 147:11, ESV)
  - 2. *"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."* (Zephaniah 3:17, ESV)
- B. Want to make the Vinedresser happy? Be a fruitful branch.
  - 1. Make it your goal to bear fruit.
  - 2. Dream about bearing fruit.
  - 3. Work to bear fruit!

#### V. The Vinedresser Loves His Vine!

- A. *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love."* (John 15:9, ESV)
  - 1. When we abide in the Son we experience the Father's love!
  - 2. God loves the Vine (Jesus, His Son)! And all He does in the vineyard is for the Vine!
- B. When we abide we experience the Father's friendship!
- C. *"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand."* (John 3:35, ESV)
- D. *"For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel."* (John 5:20, ESV)
  - 1. Just as the Father loves the Son and shows Him what He is doing, Jesus does the same with us. Jn 15:15. We are no longer servants but friends because we abide!

#### Conclusion:

- The Vinedresser repositions us for growth.
- The Vinedresser prunes/cleanses us for more growth.
- The Vinedresser will always be remove the dead/lifeless things in our lives.
- The Vinedresser glories in our bearing of fruit.
- The Vinedresser loves His Vine!