

Palm Sunday ~ Sunday, April 14, 2019
“Metaphors of the Messiah~ I AM the True Vine”
John 15:1-11

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.” (John 15:5)

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

God’s desire was for His people to be _____...the channel through which His covenant _____ flowed to the world. However, Israel had gone _____; it failed to carry out the task that God gave it; and instead, was fruitless and _____.

“I planted you like a choice grapevine from the very best seed. Now you have turned against me and have become a wild vine.” (Jeremiah 2:21)

Israel’s _____—its lack of faith and trust in God; its neglect of the Law; and its chasing after idols—caused it to wither and be _____. Instead of producing the fruit of _____ and justice, it only produced bad fruit.

THE 3 CHARACTERS IN THE METAPHOR

#1. The _____.
Vine = *ampelos* =

“For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.” (Isaiah 33:2)

true = *alethinos* =

In contrast to Israel, Jesus is the _____ and Fruitful One—and God’s blessings would now flow to the world through Him; _____ in Him becoming the decisive characteristic for membership in God’s family.

A vine has two functions: It’s the source _____ and the source of _____.

Jesus is reminding us that we’re 100% _____ on Him to supply His _____ strength to us, so that what’s produced in our lives is the fruit of His life, rather than the result of our own _____. Jesus is very clear here: apart from Him we can do _____.

#2. The _____.
***georgos* =**

God is the gardener who _____ His creation. He is constantly watching over us and cares for our well being—He’s involved in every aspect of our lives and _____ for all our needs. This care is most fully demonstrated in His sending His only _____ as the True Vine to secure _____ and life for the entire vineyard.

“He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.” (John 15:2)

There are all kinds of things in our lives—sometimes even good things—that can keep us from being _____. And so, God cuts away anything that might _____ our spiritual energy; limit _____, or keep us from living the life He’s called us to live.

“You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.” (John 15:3)

God’s Word is central in our initial cleansing at _____, and continues to be throughout our _____. God uses His _____ as the pruning knife.

“...the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

God brings His Word to bear on two main things in our lives to prune us:

- _____ - open us up to _____ the spiritual suckers in our lives. And unless we expose them to God’s Word, we’ll never get rid of them and they’ll keep growing bigger. As painful as this process can be, we must continually view our lives through the lens of God’s _____ so that He can expose and prune sin from our lives.
- _____;

“The Lord disciplines everyone he loves. He severely disciplines everyone he accepts as his child. Endure your discipline. God corrects you as a father corrects his children. All children are disciplined by their fathers. If you aren’t disciplined like the other children, you aren’t part of the family.” (Hebrews 12:6-8)

God uses discipline to get our _____—He corrects in order to _____. These painful measures are designed to bring us to _____.

_____so that we can get back to the business of bearing fruit.

“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11)

God’s discipline is always intended to be redemptive and _____. He’s more interested in propelling us toward fruitfulness than He is in punishing us.

3 THINGS ABOUT GOD’S PRUNING

- **God doesn’t prune** _____. He’s working to make us more like _____, and only removes what’s necessary.
- **Pruning involves** _____. God’s pruning knife is sharp, and h can use anything to prune us. However, these things are not designed to _____s, but to help us bear more fruit.
- **Pruning lasts a** _____.

God loves us so much, and is so committed to displaying His glory in and through us, that He actively _____our lives so that we’ll move from no fruit, to meagre fruit, to more fruit, to much fruit.

Do you want to be more fruitful than you are right now?

#3. The _____.

3 MARKS OF TRUE BRANCHES

- They _____fruit.
- They _____in Christ’s love.
- They operate in full _____with the source of life.

“If you continue in my word, then you are truly my disciples.” (John 8:31)

_____is our obligation; fruitfulness is God’s concern. However, the only way for this to happen is for us to stay tenaciously _____to the vine.

“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” (Jn 15:4)

Our job is to _____t, obey, and abide—to sat as closely connected to the vine as we can—and God will grow His fruit and and through us.

abide = meno =

Abiding in Jesus means to remain _____to Him, like a branch is connected to a vine. To continue in a daily, _____relationship with Him, characterized by trust, _____, and obedience; and to draw our

strength from Him.

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

Jesus is calling us to continually _____on Him, to _____our lives to Him in obedience to His Word; and to seek to serve Him, so that His presence and _____can be revealed in and through us.

There’s no such thing as a _____Christian—fruit is an automatic result of abiding in Jesus.

“Every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruit.” (Matthew 7:17-20)

What does the fruit in your life say about you?

A popular misconception equates fruit with outward _____. However, nowhere does the Bible equate fruit with _____behaviour or results. Instead, Scripture defines fruit in terms of _____qualities

SPIRITUAL FRUIT

- **The fruit of the** _____.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23);

- _____**offered to God.**

“Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

- **Sacrificial** _____.

“Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.” (Phil 4:17)

- **Holy, righteous, God-honouring** _____.

“bearing fruit in every good work.” (Colossians 1:10)

- _____**to the gospel.**

“You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God.” (Colossians 1:5-6)

Are you abiding in the vine?

Do you see evidence of this kind of fruit in your life?