

JOHN 15:1-17

JESUS LOVES

As Jesus continues speaking in the upper room, He gives His disciples a simple but powerful picture.

“I am the vine; you are the branches” (15:5a).

It is an image of connection and dependence. Just as a branch cannot live or bear fruit on its own, neither can His followers flourish apart from Him. The life of God flows through Jesus to His people, and everything depends on staying connected.

“Remain in me,” Jesus says (15:5b). This is not a one-time decision, but an ongoing relationship. To remain in Jesus is to trust Him, stay close to Him, and walk in His ways. And the result is not just survival but fullness—“that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (15:11b ESV).

But what does that kind of life look like? Jesus makes it clear: it shows up in love. “Love each other as I have loved you” (15:12b). This is not a shallow or easy love. It is shaped by Jesus Himself. It is a love that gives, serves, and lays down its life for others. In fact, Jesus calls His disciples friends, inviting them into a relationship marked by trust, obedience, and shared purpose.

A life connected to Jesus will bear fruit. And that fruit will be seen most clearly in how we love.

DAILY READINGS

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| I. JOHN 15:1-17 | V. 1 JOHN 4:13-21 |
| II. PSALM 80:1-19 | VI. JOHN 3:16-21 |
| III. ISAIAH 5:1-7 | VII. ROMANS 5:7-10 |
| IV. 1 JOHN 4:7-12 | |

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 15:5

JOHN 15:1-17

“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, as I also 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 you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are 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 done for 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 keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept 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: to lay down one’s life for one’s 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 so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.”

DISCUSSION

What experience do you have with harvesting fruits or vegetables? Have you ever grown a garden or visited a “u-pick” berry patch or orchard? What was that experience like?

Read John 15:1-17 aloud.

Why was the image of the vine so significant for Israel? (See Psalm 80 and Isaiah 5 from the daily readings.) What is Jesus communicating when He declares that He is “the true vine” (v.1)?

What is spiritual fruit and how does it bring glory to God (v. 8)? How does it identify us as disciples of Jesus? Read Galatians 5:22-23 aloud. How do these fruits of the Spirit connect to the commands Jesus gives in John 15:10-13?

What do you think it meant to the disciples to be called friends by Jesus rather than servants (v. 15)? What does this mean for us today? According to Jesus, what defines this friendship (v. 14)? Jesus is about to lay down His life for the disciples. What does it look like for us to lay down our lives for Christ and for one another?

How does it shape your view of your life to know that Jesus chose you and appointed you to bear fruit that will last (v.16)? Based on this passage, what should be our life’s purpose? Why do you think Jesus ends this section by repeating His command to love one another (13:34; 15:12)?

What keeps you from bearing fruit? As you look at the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, where do you sense the Lord inviting you to grow?

Pray for one another to abide in Christ and bear much fruit.



“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

JOHN 15:5