

100922

I Am the Vine

John 15:1-11



Background:

This Sunday, we will explore a text that sits at the very center of our faith. Jesus says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.” It’s impossible to overstate the importance of this text for understanding the nature of our faith. Join us as we discover what it means to be in Jesus, what it means to abide, and what it means to bear fruit. We will also have a dramatic recitation of this wonderful text by Jeremy Jones.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 15:1-11

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 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. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - The (only) purpose of a vine is to bear fruit and the Father *really* wants fruit in His world! As branches on the Jesus vine, believers' fruit should be the *life, character, and deeds* of Jesus! Which of these fruit(s) would you like to bear more of? Why?
 - Love; Joy (delight in abiding in Him); Realized prayer (as His will slowly becomes our will); Living in light; Walking in freedom (from sin)
 - How does it encourage you that an experienced vinedresser doesn't remove the new branches (they're too valuable) but instead he lifts them up and cleans them so they can bear fruit?
 - How can you care for and participate with the Father in His work to lift up new branches and clean them? How were you once cared for?
 - Abide means *to remain* or *to make your home*. Our primary manner of existence is to develop a relationship with Jesus, to depend on him, and to *remove all that hinders* our relationship with him.
 - What in your life hinders your relationship with Jesus? What can be done about this?
 - Abiding can look different to different people, but which of these ways to abide most stood out to you as a way to abide in Jesus?
 - Obedience; soak in the Word; Prayer; engaging in Church community; participating in Communion; watch how Jesus abides with the Father (i.e., from the Gospels)