

SERMON NOTES  
"A Fruitful Year"

INTRO

[PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE]

**John 15:1-2, 4-5 (ESV)**

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.



- Jesus is the vine.
- We are the branches.
- Our Heavenly Father is the vinedresser.



- Jesus has given us an extremely useful word-picture here...a beautiful metaphor for discipleship
- I am very visual. I love imagery.
- One of my favorite books of the Bible is Revelation...so much imagery...it fires me up!
- Examples of imagery in the Bible:
  - Vineyard
  - ...Like a tree planted by streams of water...
  - ...He makes me lie down in green pastures...
  - ...He leads me beside still waters (“waters of rest”)...
  - God is my Refuge / my fortress / my stronghold / my shield

- His Word is sharper than any double-edged sword...
- Isaiah 61 speaks about us as being called “oaks of righteousness”
- We should expect to leave here today deeply affected by the Word of God.
- Why? Because God promises to do this:

**Isaiah 55:10-11** (CSB)

10 For just as rain and snow fall from heaven  
and do not return there  
without saturating the earth  
and making it germinate and sprout,  
and providing seed to sow  
and food to eat,  
11 so my word that comes from my mouth  
will not return to me empty,  
but it will accomplish what I please  
and will prosper in what I send it to do.”

- God promises that He will use His Word to accomplish what pleases Him.

**John 15:1-2, 4-11** (ESV)

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.

- Jesus is the *true* vine.
  - He is the vine of vines.
  - He is the real vine...
  - the original vine...
  - the vine that all of life sprouted from...
  - and the vine that all of life was intended to *remain (abide)* in.

**Colossians 1:15-17** (ESV)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- What is a *vinedresser*?
  - A person who prunes, trains, and cultivates vines.



**John 15:2** (ESV)

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.

- Have you ever felt like you were being pruned?
- What kind of **fruit** is the vinedresser after with our lives?
  - Fruit of the Spirit
    - Love
    - Joy
    - Peace
    - Patience
    - Kindness
    - Goodness
    - Faithfulness
    - Gentleness
    - Self-control
  - Examples of Gospel fruit
    - We forgive others bc we've been forgiven
    - We are patient with others bc God has been so patient with us
  - Holiness
  - Righteousness (Repentance)
  - Deep desire for others to know Jesus & follow Him
  - Praying for others to know Jesus
  - Inviting others into life with Jesus
  - Engaged in the process of Discipleship (making disciples, being disciplined)
- ***Do you want to bear more fruit?***
- I dare you to begin praying, & asking Him to produce more fruit with your life.

**John 15:4-5** (ESV)

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.



- ***What does it mean to abide?***
  - Abide simply means to remain in.
- Any & all production of fruit in our lives is bc of the vine...

**John 15:8-11** (ESV)

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.

- Dream Guide to help set goals for the New Year:  
<https://www.jennieallen.com/blog/2023-dream-guide>