

Is My Branch Intact with the Vine?

Why would the apostles of Jesus need such a simple parable? When Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches,” He included the select twelve as objects of this lesson. (John 15:1-17)

The parable can be understood by a child. A vine has a relationship with its branches. The vine provides the nutrients and support for the branches. The branches not only live because of the vine, they also bear fruit! The vinedresser harvests the goods from all of this. If a branch is fruitless, it is cut off and burned.

God the Father is the vinedresser. Jesus is the vine. Disciples are the branches. Fruit are the works of God.

Jesus first directs the parable to his select twelve, but he extends it to “anyone” (John 15:6). This tells us that even the twelve could not assume eternal purpose and success in the Lord’s vineyard.

The branch (myself) must abide in the vine (Jesus). We must be in deep relationship with Jesus.

The branch (myself) cannot bear fruit of itself. We are lifeless and unfruitful for God if we are not abiding in Jesus. We will not get this done on our own!

The branch (myself) must bear fruit through the vine (Jesus). God provides this vine (Jesus) for us that we may bear fruit. The fruit is His love and commands done in us (John 15:9-17). We must ask ourselves, “Is God’s love and His works being constantly born from our lives?”

“Every branch (myself) that bears fruit He prunes.” God provides for those who bear His fruit! Jesus says, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” God wants our success! When it comes to fruit which brings Him glory, God gets on board immediately!

“He (myself) that does not bear fruit He takes away.” Without hesitation a vinedresser cuts off the fruitless branches so they do not needlessly tax the vine. They are gathered and thrown into the fire. This tells us that branches, even Jesus’ own twelve, are not kept on the branch when they fail to fruitfully abide in the vine. Just because we have once born fruit, it does not mean we are done.

Jesus’ own apostles would each continually need to ask, “Is my branch intact with the vine?” Those of us at Northeast need to ask the same.

Carl Lungstrum