

SNAPSHOT NUMBER SEVEN
The Vine and the Branches
John 15:1-14

Key Verse: 15:5 "I am the vine you are the branches. The one who is abiding in me and I in him, this one is bearing much fruit, because apart from me you are not able to do anything."

TEXT:

- v. 1 I am the genuine vine, and my father is the vine dresser. (tiller of the soil)
- v. 2 Every branch in me not bearing fruit, he is taking away, and every branch bearing fruit, He is cleansing it in order that it may keep on bearing more fruit.
- v. 3 You, already, are clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- v. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. Even as the branch is unable to be bearing fruit of itself, ^{except it is abiding in the vine,} so neither can you, unless you are abiding in me.
- v. 5 I am the vine you are the branches. The one who is abiding in me and I in him, this one is bearing much fruit, because apart from me you are not able to do anything.
- v. 6 If anyone is not abiding in me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they are gathering them, and casting them into the fire, and they are burned.
- v. 7 If you are abiding in me and my words are abiding in you, ask whatever you are desiring and it will become yours.
- v. 8 In this my FAther is glorified, that you are bearing much fruit, so shall you become my disciples.
- v. 9 Just as the Father loved me, I also loved you. Abide in my love.
- v.10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love; just as I have kept the commandments of my Father and I am abiding in his love.
- v.11 These things I have spoken to you, in order that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.
- v.12 This is my commandment that you keep on loving one another just as I have loved you.
- v.13 Greater love than this, no one having, that one lay down his life on behalf of his friend.
- v.14 You are my friends, if you keep on doing that which I am commanding you.

EXPOSITION:

We have been considering together in this series of studies, Snapshots of the Saviour, in the Gospel of John. We have looked together at six pictures of Jesus Christ thus far. We have witnessed him at a wedding, changing the water into wine, we have seen him in dialogue with a very religious leader and we have seen him in conversation with an outcast Samaritan woman.

We also witnessed his ability to take a little lunch and to feed the hungry multitude. We saw him deal tenderly with a woman condemned by sin and who experienced forgiveness. We have had the privilege of

- ① water to wine
- ② New Birth
- ③ living water
- ④ Bread to fish
- ⑤ woman
- ⑥ Lazarus

witnessing his ability to minister to the needs of people and above all to bring life to one who is dead.

The backdrop for the Snapshot that we are looking at on this occasion is best described as the night before the cross. Jesus has asked his disciples to prepare a room so that they can enjoy a final meal together. After he washes their feet and feasts with them, he breaks the news that there is going to be one among them who is going to betray him. After Judas leaves, the Lord Jesus can sense a good amount of tension and concern among the remaining disciples, and so he begins teaching them in John 14 about his father's house and about the fact that it is necessary for him to go away to prepare a place for them. He also tells them that he is not going to leave them alone, but that they are going to have a comforter in the person and presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit to be with them while he is gone. Jesus concludes these remarks by saying, "Arise, let us go from here" and as Jesus and the disciples are making their way from the upper room to the garden of Gethsemane. They must have passed some vineyards along the way. The workmen had tilled the soil between the rows and had also pruned back the dormant vines so that they might produce a rich harvest. Smouldering fires dotted the landscape, which indicated to the Lord and the disciples that the cuttings were being burned.

John 8:
John 11:
Upper rooms
Kingdom Chatter
No Servants
Lots of Pride
Dirt Feet

"My Father...
& she was
gone!!

Some of the
last words
before the
cross...

It is on this occasion that the Lord Jesus wants to describe his new relationship with his men, the teaching included here in chapter 15 and in chapter 16 are some of the final things that he had to say to them before the cross.

Still thinking
of His men as
the cross
tiller
before
him

Verse One: "I am the genuine vine, and my father is the vine dresser (tiller of the soil)."

As they look out on the vineyard, the Lord Jesus speaks and he identifies himself as the genuine vine.

In John 6:35 he said, "I am the bread of life." And in John 8:12 he said, "I am the light of the world." And in John 10:7 "I am the door of the sheep." In John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd." In John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life." In John 14:6, "I am the way." And now in John 15:1, "I am the genuine or true vine."

And my father is the vine dresser (tiller of the soil).

Jesus likens the Father to the one who creates a climate in which the vine can experience maximum productivity. He is the one who breaks up the soil. He is the one who is involved in pruning, in fertilizing, in watering, and in protecting from inclement weather, when necessary.

Verse Two: "Every branch in me not bearing fruit, He is taking away, and every branch bearing fruit, He is cleansing it in order that it may keep on bearing more fruit."

In our picture we have seen together the true vine, who is Jesus Christ, and the vine dresser, or tiller of the soil, who is the father; and now we have introduced into the parable the branches of the vine. These will be identified in verse 5 as Christians.

"I am the vine you are the branches."

As the vinedresser begins his work, he does two things. First every branch in Christ who is not bearing fruit, he is taking away or lifting up.

World = Squ
Flesh = Ripes up
Devil = Fires A Few Shots

World
Flesh
Devil

*** the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful ***

Fruit =
inside
↓
Outside

How is it that a branch would not be bearing fruit? Since this is a Christian that is described here not bearing fruit, there are two possibilities. First he is grieving the Holy Spirit in his life by sin or disobedience or he is quenching the Holy Spirit by his unwillingness to be submissive to him. It is said here that when the father finds a branch not bearing fruit, he is "lifting it up" or "taking it away." I believe this can be described as any action on the part of the father taken in behalf of the fruitless branch that he deems necessary to restore that branch to a position of fruitfulness. It is the loving desire of the father that we are restored to fellowship by a confession of the sin in or lives and a willingness to be submissive to his leading and guiding to make us most fruitful. ***

Blows the whistle
Pulls you out
of the Game
Shuts you down

1 This can entail providential dealings in our life through ordering of circumstances to gain a proper response or 2 can lead to chastening from the hand of the loving father in order to get us to respond, and then the ultimate is taking us to glory in physical death. Come on Home

I Corinthians 5:5 "I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

I Corinthians 11:30-32, "For this reason many among you are weak and sick and a number of sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world."

Whereas in the first part of the verse we have the negative aspects of the father's work, in the last half of the verse we have the positive aspects--"and every branch bearing fruit, he is cleansing it in order that it may keep on bearing more fruit."

Here we have just the opposite from the previous. We have a branch that is bearing fruit and the father also takes time working with this branch but in a different way. He is cleansing it, and his purpose in doing that is in order that it may keep on bearing more fruit. *

How is it that we are "cleansed" by the father?

the father's hand is never closer to his child than when she is pruning us.

Heb. 4:12

Ephesians 5:26,27 "That he might sanctify her having cleansed her with the washing of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in her glory having no spot or wrinkle nor any such thing, but that she should be holy and blameless."

I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from unrighteousness."

I Cor. 7:1

Psalm 119:9,11 "Where with all shall a young man cleanse his way by taking heed thereto according to thy word. They word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

His whole purpose in this cleansing process in our lives through our exposure to the word is "in order that we might be bearing more fruit."

What a powerful motivation for personal bible reading and study, because through the process the father is cleansing us and making us more effective in the business of bearing fruit, which is the whole purpose for the

Father having a vine in the first place.

Verse Three: "You, already, are clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

Jesus describes the disciples who are listening to this discourse that he is presenting as already being clean because of the word which he had spoken to them.

He was not able to give this unanimous verdict of clean back in chapter 13 because Judas was still with them in verse 10. "He who has bathed need only to wash his feet but is completely clean, and "you are clean" but not all of you!" And in verse 11, "For he knew the one who was betraying him for this reason he said not all of you are clean."

Verse Four: "Abide in me, and I in you. Even as the branch is unable to be bearing fruit of itself, so neither can you, unless you are abiding in me."
except it is abiding in the vine,

The Lord Jesus is now giving them the key to fruitfulness. It is first their abiding in the Lord Jesus and secondly, the Lord Jesus abiding in them. The first is our responsibility, the second is our resource. The first is our fellowship, the second is our fuel. The first is our living and the second is our life.

He gives them the command: "abide in me." This involves fellowship. It involves union, and communion one with the other. *It restores Heb. 4; it involves obedience & submission*

* * It is possible to be a Christian and not be fulfilling this command. It is this aspect of our relationship to God that involves discipline, desire, and determination on our part.

How is it possible for us to know that we are abiding in him? There are three things that characterize the abiding life. First, we are drawing upon all that he is. Second, we are depending upon all that he can do. Third, we are developing into his image.

If I am not abiding in Christ, then I am out of fellowship. Then I am not really experiencing life abundant as it should be.

Jesus does not stop here, but after giving the command, abide in me, he turns around and says, "And I in you." *That x might settle down in your hearts by faith.*

Paul describes this as "Christ in you the hope of glory."

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."

It is Christ within us who is our life. It is Christ within us who is the resource, the very fuel for fruitfulness. It is union and communion with the Lord Jesus that is going to issue in fruit being borne in our lives.

Jesus then applies this command to the parable which he is using. "Even as the branch is unable to be bearing fruit of itself." Just like a branch is useless without the vine, so a Christian endeavoring to bear fruit on

Drawing
2) Depending
3) Developing

Rev. 3:20

* *

Fruit

- ① X-Like Character
Gal. 5: 22, 23
- ② Confession of Praise
Heb. 13: 15
- ③ Contributions
Phil. 4: 1
- ④ Conduct
Titus 2: Col. 1: 1
- ⑤ Conversions

Fruit = internal + external

My changed life Others changed lives.

Trying
To bear
1 to my
own.

Steven ~~Alford~~ in his book, I'll Take the High Road, says, "God pleases to operate when we stand with eyes clear to see his vision, ears clear to hear his voice, and hearts clear to know his victory."

The ones who are abiding in Christ, that is security and Christ in them is their strength. The ones who are abiding in Christ that is their trust. And Christ in them is their triumph.

Union in
Marriage
brings forth
the fruit of
the womb.
Rom. 7;
Married to
Christ.

He is alive, adequate, and available to live in us and it is his command and desire that we abide in him by fellowship and communion in a oneness like the one that is expressed between the vine and the branches. It is out of this relationship that much fruit is going to be born.

Verse Six: "If anyone is not abiding in me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they are gathering them, and casting them into the fire, and they are burned."

In verse 6 we get the consequences-in verse 7 the compensations. In verse 6 we look at the negative--in verse 7 we look at the positive.

"If anyone is not abiding in me."

This is the description of someone who is out of fellowship, who is disobedient, or who is stubborn in resisting the will of the father. It is said of him, "he is thrown away as a branch and dries up, and they are gathering them and casting them into the fire and they are burned."

The description here is a description of the judgment seat of Christ. Paul describes this in II Corinthians 5:10 that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, everyone may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

And in I Corinthians 3:11, "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire. The fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss but he himself shall be saved yet so as through fire."

John describes a process in here in this part of the exposition of the Lord Jesus, "if anyone is not abiding, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up." How many have I heard describe their Christian experience as dry, dead, and dull, when it is the desire of the Lord Jesus that it might be filled with life living and luster to the glory of God. *vs. 32: my life*

Verse Seven: "If you are abiding in me and my words are abiding in you, ask whatever you are desiring and it will become yours." *vs. 32: my life*

Whereas we see the consequences in verse 6, now we see the compensation in verse 7. The negative in verse 6--we have the positive. If you are abiding in me and my words are abiding in you. Here the Lord Jesus includes the additional message of "my words abiding in you!" *inv. 2*

John 8:31, "Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine.'"

Accountable picture
all the symptoms
are there...
deadness, dryness
and to some, that
nothing is going
right, anything
is going wrong
Just as if
God were
against
them

desert for
the Israelites
Conclusions
remained.

Copyright © 2017 by Bible Teaching Resources by Don Anderson Ministries. The author's lecture notes incorporated herein are a variety of sources, all of which have been appropriately credited to the best of our ability. Quoted material is particularly ripe within the realm of fair use. The nature of lecture notes to contain references that may prove difficult to accurately attribute. Any use of these notes without permission is unintentional.

The word for abide in John 8:31 is the same word that is translated abide here in John 15:7. There Christ said if you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. What is it to abide in him and have his word abide in us? The word abide has in it the idea of drawing from something that which sustains life. The plant is abiding in the ground when it is so related to its environment that which it is drawing from the ground that which nurtures and sustains the life of the plant. The fish is abiding in the sea not when it is afloat upside down in the ocean, but when it is so related to its environment that it is drawing from that environment sustenance for life. The bird is abiding in the air when it is drawing from its environment that which sustains its peculiar kind of life. When there is a break between that living thing and its environment so that it is no longer being sustained by it, it is no longer abiding. A believer is abiding in Christ when his life is being nurtured and sustained by Jesus Christ. A believer is abiding in the word when he is drawing from the word that which sustains his life. That which controls his thinking, that which controls his speech, that which controls his actions, that which determines his goals in life and his habits. When every area and phase of his life is controlled by the word of God, the individual is living in the word or abiding in the word.

Meditating
+
Memorizing

(His word is abiding in us) when we are meditating upon it and memorizing it in order to make it personal.

In this verse we have the two-fold grounds for effective prayer. Abiding in Christ and his words abiding in us. Whatever you are desiring, ask and it will become yours. It is through fellowship with the father that our desires are changed into his desires, and it is through his word that his will is made known to us.

Verse Eight: "In this my Father is glorified, that you are bearing much fruit, so shall you become my disciples."

The result of abiding in Christ is the glorification of the father, because it is the father's full purpose that we be bearing much fruit. It is from faith to freedom to flow and to fruit that glorifies the father. John goes on to say so shall you become my disciples, that is my learners. The Lord Jesus will remind us of every duty of its time and place. He will reprove us of every error, counsel us in every difficulty. He will excite us to every needful activity in spiritual as in temporal matters, we take no thought for tomorrow for we know that Christ will be as accessible tomorrow as today and the time imposes no barrier on his love, so it is that we become his disciples.

One purpose
is fruit

Verse Nine: "Just as the Father loved me, I also loved you. Abide in my love."

Thus far, we have noted together that the Lord Jesus has commanded us ¹ "to be abiding in him," and ² "for him to be abiding in us," and ³ "for his word to be abiding in us." And now, ⁴ he is saying that we are to "be abiding in his love."

I John 4:16-18, "And we ourselves have known and have believed the love which God is having in our case, God is love; and the one abiding in love is abiding in God and God is abiding in him. In this the love has been brought to completion, which is in us that as a result we are having boldness in the day of the judgment, because just as that one is also:

we ourselves are in this world. Fear is not in love but perfect love is casting out fear because this fear is having penalty. The one who is fearing has not been brought to completion in this love."

In essence what the Lord Jesus is saying in this 9th verse is to flourish in my favor; Glory in my Grace; Live in my Love; Bubble in my Bounty

Verse Ten: "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love; just as I have kept the commandments of my Father and I am abiding in His Love."

Here the Lord Jesus continues by pointing up the fact that obedience will equal fellowship. As I reflect my submission by my obedience to that which he asks, I thus continue the fellowship or the abiding in his love. This does not mean that the Lord Jesus ceases to love when we are disobedient. There is a richer and deeper love that one experiences in his relationship to the Lord Jesus when he is faithful to be obedient, and this love is not known by those who are disobedient.

Verse Eleven: "These things I have spoken to you, in order that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full."

* * Jesus now tells his men why he has spoken these things about fruitfulness in the previous verses. The purpose back of it is "in order that my joy that is the joy of Christ may be in you" and that as a result of that, "your joy may be made full." Joy is the Flag that Flies when the King is in residence

I John 1:4 "And as for us, we are writing these things in order that your joy might be filled. The ultimate evidence of a life walking in fellowship with the Father is a joy which has been made full."

Verse Twelve: "This is my commandment that you keep on loving one another just as I have loved you."

In verse 11, it is joy; in verse 12 it is love. We are to love one another like the Lord Jesus has loved us, and the obvious question is how is that? And the answer is given in verse 13.

Verse Thirteen: "Greater love than this, no one is having, that one lay down his life on behalf of his friend."

I John 3:16 "In this we have come to know love because that one on our behalf laid down his soul and as for us, we are having a moral obligation on behalf of our brethren to lay down our soul.

Verse Fourteen: "You are my friends, if you keep on doing that which I am commanding you."

The Lord Jesus provides the framework for fellowship in these verses. It will be evident by joy and by love and by obedience.

CONCLUSION:

We have learned together in these verses that the primary objective of the Father in our lives as his children is fruitfulness. In verse eight, we have learned that herein is my Father glorified. * *

He has the resources to transform our character. He can deal with every type of weakness that marrs our lives, and can so reconstitute us that we become suited to his purpose and we bear much fruit.

There must be some purpose some reason for God's allowing the knife of suffering to operate in our lives. Nothing ever happens in haphazard way in a Christian's life. We shall, I think, not be far wrong if we stick to our 15th of John and say with the second verse that the object is fruit, and in the same verse, more fruit, and in verse eight, much fruit; and all this is for the supreme end that our father might be glorified. This same thought is also seen in Isaiah 61:3, "That they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that he might be glorified." Are we as anxious to bear fruit for him as he is to see it? Are we as careful to avoid anything that would hinder fruit bearing as we ought to be? Perhaps you are out of fellowship with the Father today, and you are not abiding in Him; and his word is not abiding in you; and as a result, your Christian experience is far from what it should be. If God is speaking to you about this matter, I trust that you will allow the Holy Spirit to do his convicting work in your life that fruit once again, might be born. It is the branch that bears the fruit that feels the knife, to prune it for a larger growth and fuller life. Though every budding twig be lopped and every grace of ~~swaying~~ ^{springing} leaf be lost ~~in~~ space. Oh thou whose life of joy seems reft of beauty shorn, whose aspirations lie in dust all bruised and torn. Rejoice, though each desire, each dream, each hope of thine shall fall in faith, it is the hand of love divine that holds the knife that cuts and breaks with tenderous touch that thou whose life has borne some fruit may now bear much.

III. OF MOSES

Questions

Lessons:

- ① Jesus is the Vine, we are the branches and the Father is the gardner.
- ② The branch has one purpose to bear fruit
- ③ The object is Fruit, more Fruit, much Fruit
- ④ Pruning instrument is the word of God.
Sword lays bare; Hammer breaks in pieces; Fire that melts.
- ⑤ The branch can never settle down in self-contentment. much fruit. Phil. 3:12-14
- ⑥ The Father is glorified by a good crop !!
- ⑦ The Father's hand is never closer to His child than when He is pruning him.