

Join in the Mission of Jesus Notes

John 15:1-5, 8

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Main Point: If we faithfully follow Jesus, He will make us fruitful.

Grapevines

1. Was the _____ of Israel.
2. Grapes appeared on coins during the period between Malachi and Matthew.
3. At the time of Jesus, a golden _____ hung over the entrance to the Temple.
4. The grapevine represented Israel's _____ in doing God's work on earth (Psalm 80:8).
5. His people neglected to keep the vine nourished, and as a result, they ended up going wild and _____ their fruit (Psalm 80:12-13).

God's Grape Expectations

1. God has always had "grape expectations" for His followers.
2. Instead of producing sweet grapes, His people had offered only _____ substitutes (Jeremiah 2:21).
3. God's desire has always been for His people to be _____ (Genesis 1:28, Genesis 9:1).
4. Since a disciple must exhibit fruit which comes from faithfully following Jesus, a Christ-follower who does not produce fruit is a contradiction in terms (Matthew 21:19).
5. It is _____ and unnatural for a follower of Christ to be unfruitful.

Characters in the Vineyard

1. Jesus is the _____ vine (John 15:1a)
 - The word "vine" literally means, " _____," or "trunk."
 - It's the part that comes out of the ground and is often not much to look at (Isaiah 53:2).
 - The word "true" means, "the trustworthy, _____, and real one."
 - This claim of Jesus is a manifestation of His _____.
 - This is the seventh time in the Gospel of John Jesus used the phrase, "I am."
 - I am the bread of life.
 - I am the light of the world.
 - I am the door of the sheep.
 - I am the good shepherd.
 - I am the resurrection and the life.
 - I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
 - I am the true vine.
2. The _____ is the farmer (John 15:1b-2).

- The “vinedresser” is literally, “one who farms or _____.”
 - The gardener’s primary task is to _____ grapes.
 - A vine needs a gardener in order to produce _____.
3. _____ are the branches (John 15:2-5).
- The only way for fruit to form is if the branch remains tenaciously _____ to the foundation of the trunk.

A Walk in the Vineyard

- Four levels of fruit bearing in our passage.
 - Verse 2a “does not bear fruit” – _____ fruit
 - Verse 2b “does bear fruit” – _____ fruit
 - Verse 2c “bear more fruit” – _____ fruit
 - Verse 5 “bears much fruit” – _____ fruit
- According to Matthew 7:20, fruit bearing is a sign of _____ life.
- Fruit you should see
 - Inner _____.
 - New awareness of sin.
 - Victory over sin.
 - New love for God.
 - _____ to read the Bible.
 - Attitude changes.
 - Sense of forgiveness.
 - New concern for others.
- Judas had no fruit because he had no faith since his real god was _____.

Finding Fruit

- Expect _____ (John 15:2).
 - The person with false faith is cut off while the faithful follower is cut _____.
 - Jesus performs the ministry of pruning and purifying on “_____ branch.”
 - Good pruning creates a strong root system, improves the health of the vine and _____ the yield.
 - Pruning must take place in order for grapes to _____.
 - We all need this because we come into the Christian life with our flesh and the world in us.
 - God is gracious not to hack it all away at once or we’d never survive.
 - If we want to be like Christ, it’s got to _____.
 - Everything else must be _____ for the sake of the harvest.
 - Points to ponder if you are being pruned.
 - God does not prune us _____ - He only removes what is necessary and avoids unnecessary injury.
 - Pruning involves _____ - God uses circumstances, failures, ruptured relationships, illnesses, and trials in order to get us to bear more fruit.

- Pruning can last a _____ time – the longer a grapevine is alive, the more pruning it needs.
2. Allow the Word to _____ you (John 15:3).
- A branch will grow rapidly but will not necessarily _____ where it should.
 - A gentle gardener will pick up the branch, wash it off, and tenderly tuck its tendrils back into the trellis where it can bear fruit.
 - Sometimes He sends _____ our way in order to get us back on track.
 - These painful measures are designed to bring us to _____ so we can bear fruit again.
 - The Gardener corrects in order to _____ (Hebrews 12:11).
 - Discipline primarily comes as a result of _____ while pruning deals with the problem of self.
 - He is more interested in propelling you toward _____ than He is in punishing you.
3. Stay _____ to Christ (John 15:4-5).
- Abide
 - Means “to _____, to dwell, or remain or to settle in for the long term.”
 - Abide is used 11 times in John 15, 40 times in the Gospel of John and 27 times in John’s epistles.
 - We must stay connected to Christ at all times.
 - A branch doesn’t struggle to grow grapes if it stays connected to the life _____.
 - Your responsibility is to be _____ and fruit is the result.
 - If we want our baskets to be full of fruit, then we must stay connected to Christ.
 - Faithfulness is our obligation; fruitfulness is God’s _____.
 - The result of spiritual fruitfulness is that God will be _____, we will grow, and we will go with the gospel so others will come to Christ and be discipled.
 - “In me”
 - Used _____ times.
 - There are a lot of people “in” the church or “in” religion but that doesn’t mean they are “in” Christ.
 - The word “nothing” means, “not even one thing, not the _____ thing.”
 - Our work and our witness are completely _____ if we try to do it on our own.
 - Three basic fruits we should see (Steven Cole)
 - We _____ more like Him (Colossians 1:10).
 - We _____ more like Him by living out the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).
 - We are _____ for souls like He is (John 4:35).

It’s time to ask Christ to take our lives and use them for His glory because apart from Christ the Vine we are nothing and can do nothing.