



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Fruit of Fellowship with Jesus

Date: November 16, 2025

Scripture Text: John 15:1-11

Notes:

Many people garden as a hobby and enjoy times to get outdoors and care for the vegetation they've planted: making sure it's well-watered, keeping insects away that might eat the leaves, and pruning the limbs so more may grow. If a limb is withered, it is best to remove it so another can grow in its place. The gardener invests time and money to keep the plants healthy and productive. In today's text, Jesus shares a parable of a vinedresser and his vineyard. The love and effort he places on his plants to be fruitful. God loves us and wants us to be fruitful as well! Let's take a look at this parable Jesus shares with His disciples and the 4 people who play a role in the parable.

I. The Vinedresser (John 15:1)

God the Father is the Vinedresser. Vinedressers oversee the propagation, planting, pruning and tending of grape vines in a vineyard. Their goal is to optimize the quality and abundance of grapes. In this case it is God who oversees and directs the ministry of Jesus (the true vine) and His disciples (the branches). God is in control of all things at all times ([Ps. 115:3](#), [Isa. 46:10](#)).

- How comforting is it to know that God is always in control, regardless of your circumstances?
- Knowing God is in control can bring comfort, but there is also expectation from God as the Vinedresser that we, as the branches, are fruitful. Even with those expectations, God, as the loving Vinedresser will provide the means to be fruitful. What is required of us?

II. The True Vine (John 15:1)

Jesus used this occasion to indicate that He was the true vine that produced the fruit that the nation of Israel failed to produce, fruit for which the Vinedresser (the Father) was looking for.

- Based on what we've learned about the Jewish religious leaders during Jesus' time, how did they not produce the fruit God was looking for? Where was their focus?
- What is the true fruit that Jesus produces? Where is Jesus' focus?



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III. The Unfruitful Branches (John 15:2a, 6)

Jesus is NOT stating that a Christian can lose their salvation. Just as certain as a biological birth, spiritual birth is impossible to revoke. Köstenberger states what Jesus is describing: 'Some who appear to be members in good standing in the Christian community may eventually turn out never truly to have been part of it in the first place, Judas being the paradigmatic example.'

- How should you respond to an 'unfruitful branch'?

IV. The Fruitful Branches

Jesus is specifically speaking to the 11 remaining disciples, but provides 5 characteristics of a healthy Christian that apply today:

1. Abiding (John 15:4) which means to continue in or remain in fellowship with Christ. It's taking up spiritual residence with Him, being totally reliant and committed to Him.
 - Describe what it looks like practically to abide in Christ.
 - How can trying to do things outside of Christ be a reflection of not abiding?
 - How well are you abiding in Christ?
 - What changes are needed to be totally and completely reliant on Christ?
2. Fruitful (John 15:5) which means that we are engaged in activities which we have been equipped to do under the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Fruits are acts of obedience.
 - What are examples of being fruitful?
 - How have you been fruitful?

Remember the Christian's job is to abide, the vine (Jesus) is what brings the fruit.

3. Privileges of Answered Prayer (John 15:7) By abiding in Christ, we become more and more like Him, learning how to pray according to His will.
 - How would you describe your prayer life?
 - What can you do to be a better 'pray-er'?
4. Obedient Living (John 15:10) The chief element of abiding in Christ is obedience.
 - How do we learn to obey Christ? Do you spend consistent time in His word to know how to obey Him?
5. Joyful Life (John 15:11) As a Christian, we can experience joy regardless of our circumstances. Because we have Jesus, we have joy.
 - What situations tend to steal your joy? In those times, how can you turn to Jesus and allow Him to restore your joy?