



Sermons of the Savior

John 15:1-8

Lesson 18

I am the true vine. This is the last of the *I am* statements of Jesus. In these eight verses, Jesus likens Himself to a *vine*. He likens the Father to a *vinedresser*. He likens mankind to *branches*. The *branch's* relationship to the *vine* determines not only our eternal destiny, but the amount of *fruit* we will produce in our lives. May we desire to produce (bear) *much*.

OBSERVATION: Read John 15:1-8

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father* and *Jesus*
Key Words: *Father, Jesus, vine, branch(es), abide(s), and fruit*
3. Contrast the *branch that bears fruit* and the *branch that does not bear fruit*.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. What are the marks of a true friendship?
2. What do you do to maintain your friendships?

THE VINE AND THE VINEDRESSER: Read John 15:1

1. What title did Jesus use to describe Himself in this verse?
 - a. Consider a *vine*. Vineyards were prevalent in Israel. When you consider vineyards as Jesus refers to them, keep in mind the prevalence of grape vines in the region at that time. Describe a vine.

 - b. What is the purpose of a *vine*?

 - c. In what ways do you think a *vine* describes Jesus?

2. What adjective is used in John 15:1 to describe the kind of *vine* Jesus is?
 - a. Define the word *true*.

 - b. In what ways is Jesus *true*?

 - c. The Old Testament often referred to Israel as a *vine*. In what ways did Israel fail to meet God's requirements of a *vine*?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

3. What title did Jesus use to describe the *Father*?
 - a. The *vinedresser* is the farmer who tends the field. In what ways does the *Father* do this?

- b. Each of the following verses refer to God being the *vinedresser*. What do they teach us about Him?

Isaiah 27:3

Isaiah 60:21

Isaiah 61:3

BEARING NO FRUIT: Read John 15:2-6

1. Jesus is the *vine*; the *Father* is the *vinedresser*. To what does Jesus liken people? verse 5
2. Define the word *fruit* as it is used in these verses.
 - a. What are some examples of good *fruit*?
3. Good *fruit* is not necessarily good works. A person who is not a Christian can do good things. Why do you think God does not recognize their good works as spiritual *fruit*?
4. Using John 15:2-6:

Describe a *branch that does not bear fruit*

Record what God does with a *branch that does not bear fruit*

 - a. What do the following verses say about this?

Matthew 3:10

Luke 13:7-9
5. Why is a lack of *fruit* evidence of a lack of relationship (connection) to a *vine*?

ABIDING: Read John 15:4-8

1. The *branch's* productivity depends solely on one thing. What is it? verse 4
 - a. Define the word *abide*.

2. Review the use of the word *abide* in your observation worksheet. Jesus used the word seven times. Make a list of what He said.

Challenge: Using a Strong's Concordance, look up some of the uses of the Greek word translated as *abide* in John 15. Explain the word *abide* as it is used in other verses in the New Testament.

3. Who are we to *abide* in?
 - a. Describe what it means, in a practical sense, to *abide* in Jesus.

4. According to John 15:7, what is an additional benefit of *abiding* in *Jesus*?
 - a. Record the truths of Proverbs 3:5,6
 - 1.) How does *abiding, trusting in the LORD, and not leaning on your own understanding* affect what we *ask* for in prayer?

BEARING MUCH FRUIT: Read John 15:2-8

1. Using John 15:4-8, describe a *branch* that *bears fruit* and what the *vinedresser* does with that *branch*.
 - a. Define the word *prunes*.
 - 1.) God does not literally take a knife to a believer so she *bears more fruit*. Explain what you think it means when Jesus says that the *vinedresser prunes those who bear fruit*.
2. A *branch cannot bear fruit of itself*. How have you discovered this to be true?
 - a. Although *we can bear no fruit unless we abide in the vine*, what is the result of:
pruning verse 2

abiding verse 5
3. Circle your desire: I want to *bear fruit*; I want to *bear more fruit*; I want to *bear much fruit*.
 - a. How does knowing that *pruning* is often necessary for you to *bear more fruit* affect your reaction to the *vinedresser's pruning*?
 - b. How does understanding the effect of *abiding* cause you to see its importance?
4. Meditate on the words of John 15:8. What *glorifies* our *Father*?
 - a. What does it mean to *glorify the Father*?
 - b. Why is it important to remember this goal, as we *bear fruit*?

REVIEW: Read John 15:1-8

1. Through the study of this lesson, what did you learn about:

Jesus likened to a *vine*

The *Father* likened to a *vinedresser*

You likened to a *branch*

2. Through the study of this lesson, what did you learn about:

pruning

abiding

bearing fruit

prayer

glorifying the Father

3. How were you challenged by this lesson?

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

- 1 John 2:6

Observation Worksheet

John 15:1-8

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 bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.