

# Great Stories of the Bible - 05/22/22

## The Vine and the Branches

**TEXT- John 15:1-8** *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

**INTRO** – Christ emphasized His equality with God. The Father first revealed Himself to Moses as the —"I AM" ([Exodus 3:14](#)). *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

"I am the light of the world" ([John 8:12](#))

"I am the bread of life" ([John 6:35](#))

"I am the Way" ([John 14:6](#))

"I am the Door" ([John 10:9](#))

"I am the good shepherd" [Ἰησοῦς] ([John 10:11](#))

"I am the resurrection and the life" ([John 11:25](#))

Now, the night before His death, He tells them, "I am the Vine." ([John 15:1](#))

**Each "I Am" is a metaphor that points to His deity.**

The vine is Christ; the vinedresser is the Father. The fruit-bearing branches represent the eleven and all true disciples of the church age. The fruitless branches represent Judas and all those who never were true disciples.

**Judas and those like him never bear any fruit.**

**John 13:10-11** *Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.*

**James Hudson Taylor** was a missionary to China and founder of the China Inland Mission. Taylor spent 51 years in China. The society that he began was responsible for bringing over 800 missionaries to the country who started 125 schools and directly resulted in 18,000 Christian conversions, as well as the establishment of more than 300 stations of work with more than 500 local helpers in all eighteen provinces

**C T Studd** was surrendered to missions after hearing Hudson Taylor, He went to China, India and the Congo.

## I. Christ Is the True Vine

### A. Israel was the true vine in the Old Testament

**Isaiah 5:1-7** *Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:*

**Jesus is the true Vine. Israel was the type, but Christ is the reality.**

Branches belong entirely to the vine; if branches are to live and bear fruit, they must completely depend on the vine for nourishment, support, strength, and vitality.

11

Yet many are tied to a bank account. Others are attached to their education. Some have tried to make vines out of popularity, fame, personal skills, possessions, relationships, or fleshly desires. Some think the church is their vine, and try to attach themselves to a religious system. But none of those things can sustain or bear fruit.

### B. The vine is Christ.

If they are "in Me" they are Genuine Believers.

If you desire to live the victorious life you must find your strength through the vine Jesus Christ.

## II. The Father Is the Vinedresser

The point is that the Father cares for the Son and for those joined to the Son by faith.

*The husbandman is a farmer cares for the plants (A vinedresser)*

The vinedresser has two duties:

**First**, he cuts off fruitless branches, which take away sap from the fruit-bearing branches.

**Secondly**, he constantly trims shoots from the fruit-bearing branches so that all the sap is concentrated on fruit-bearing.

**John 15:2** *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

The fruitless branches that are cut off are useless.

As verse 2 says, they are "taken away." He removes them.

The fruit-bearing branches are pruned so they will bear more fruit. We know these branches represent Christians, because only Christians can bear fruit. Pruning is not done only once—it is a constant process. The Father prunes a branch so it may bear more fruit.

**John 15:8** *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

**What is considered fruit?**

**Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

**Ephesians 5:9** *(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)*

**Colossians 1:10** *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

### III. The Fruitless Branches Are Removed

In first-century Palestine, it was common to prevent a vine from bearing fruit for three years after it was planted. In the fourth year it was strong enough to bear fruit. Its fruit-bearing capacity had been increased by the careful pruning. Mature branches, which had already been through the four-year process, were pruned annually between December and January.

**It is the essence of the Christian life to bear fruit.**

**Ephesians 2:10** *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

**Jesus said a genuine believer can be tested by his fruit.**

**Matthew 7:16-17** *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*

When John the Baptist saw the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized, he said, *O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*

**Matthew 3:7-8**

**2 Corinthians 13:5** *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*

### IV. The Fruitful Branches Are Pruned

- **Pruning is also necessary in Christian's lives.** The Father removes sins that limit our fruitfulness. One of the best ways to cleanse us is to allow suffering and problems to come into our lives. Sometimes it hurts, and we wonder if He knows what He is doing.
- **Spiritual pruning can take many forms.** it may be sickness, hardships, or loss of material possessions. It may be persecution or slander from non-Christians. For some it is the loss of a loved one or grief in a relationship. Whatever the method, the effect is to narrow our focus and strengthen the quality of our fruit.

**Hebrews 12:6** *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

**If we remember that God is trying to make us more fruitful, we can look past the pruning process to the goal.**

**Hebrews 12:7** *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

**Hebrews 12:10** *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*

**CONCL – Abiding is the key to the victorious life!**

**John 15:4** *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

**Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

**Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. Col 3:16**