

## The Vine

May 20, 2026

John 15:1-8

No. 3

We are a studying a series of messages entitled "Lessons from the Farm."

We saw last time that following Jesus is a lot like plowing;

Like farming,

It is a noble thing to want to walk with Jesus Christ.

When someone said to Jesus that he wanted to follow Him, Jesus replied, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and then looks back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

He was essentially saying;

1. Count the cost
2. Live for the heavenly, not the earthly
3. Don't look back – stay focused

If you want the Word of God to be planted in your heart, then protect your plow.

Stay focused and don't get distracted by:

1. the challenges of the Christian life
2. worldliness
3. non-essentials

And you will have a mind suited to the Kingdom of God.

We now turn our attention to something that is growing on the farm, the vine.

Like the seed, and the plow, we can learn a lot from a vine.

I'd like to examine this principle today as a 4 act play.

In this play, there are 3 important players.

1. vinedresser – God the Father
2. vine – Jesus Christ
3. branches – followers of Christ

Let's introduce the players

**Jn 15:1** *I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.*

**v.2** *"Every branch in Me*

"true vine" apparently, there are other vines, but Christ is the true vine. Other vines promote deception. Ie.

- Life through things
- Sin is accepted
- Spiritual independence is a right

Notice.

In order to insure a bountiful harvest, all the players must work together.



**Act 1**

Jesus speaks about the **performance of the branches**

**v.2** *(Every branch in Me) that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.*

“fruit” *karpos* – fruit as plucked

It must come to completion. What good is fruit that has not matured and ripened?

Unripened fruit is not beneficial.

Only when it has matured do we find the benefit.

Branches, as we will see, have one of two outcomes. (pruned or burnt)

**v.3** Jesus is speaking to His disciples.

*You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

“clean” salvation, washed

Rom 3:26 ...God is *the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

*Clean because of the word...*

“the word” the Gospel

In John 13, at the Last Supper, Jesus was going to wash the disciples’ feet. Peter said No Lord, you shall not wash my feet.

But Jesus said, If I do not wash your feet you have no part with Me.

*v.9 Simon Peter \*said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."*

*v.10 Jesus \*said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."*

**Act 2  
The Vine**

**v.4** Means of growth

*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.*

“abide” stay, dwell, endure

The life flows from the vine into the branch.

Without that connection, the branch withers and dies.



so

and

It’s a picture of the branch staying connected to the vine.

It’s like blood is to the body.

No red blood cells – anemic.

### **Act 3 Abiding**

#### **v.5** Result.

*"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

Jesus says that He is the only source of life for the fruit. The fruit cannot get its life from anywhere else.

### **Act 4 The Fire**

#### **v.6** Broken branches.

*"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.*

Question:

What would cause a spiritual branch to break off Christ the vine?

1. Drought – dryness of the Word of God

Speaking of the church, Paul said;

Eph 5:26 *having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*

2. Wind – false /wrong beliefs

Eph 4:14 *we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine*

Jude calls false teachers; *clouds without water, carried along by winds*

3. Animals – enemies of the vine

- Sentimental people
- Carnal Christians

I Pe 2:8 *they stumble because they are disobedient to the word,*

Song 2:15 *Catch the foxes for us, The little foxes that are ruining the vineyards, While our vineyards are in blossom."*

It's the little sins that destroy the fruit.

II Pe 1:10 Your protection

*Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent (make an effort, use speed)*

*to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice (perform) these things, you will never stumble;*

Abiding in Christ is the choice that belongs to you.



**Act 5**  
**A Perfect Day In The Vineyard**

**v.7** *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

Your soul is knit with Christ's.

To be in harmony with the divine will.

**Act 6**  
**The Harvest**

**v.8** God's glory comes from our harvest

*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

"glorify" to esteem, honor

Fruit is the evidence of discipleship. A disciples is a serious follower of Jesus Christ. Their desire is Christlikeness.

Summary:

Your life is a 6 act play.

Act 1 – Performance; to bear fruit

Act 2 – Vineyard – know your world

Act 3 – Abide – get your strength from Christ

Act 4 – We are all branches –

Either;

Broken – dry up and wither away

Connected – grow and produce fruit

Act 5 – Harmony – you are in harmony with the Divine Will

Act 6 – The Harvest – God is glorified and honored.

The End.