

I am the TRUE VINE

John 15:1-11

Intro:

- Knowing God, the most important thing of all...
 - Do we know Him enough to trust Him?
 - Do we know Him enough to love Him?
- All of God's Plans from Genesis to Christ...
 - Preparing God's People for God's Plan
 - It started in a Garden...it will end that way too!
 - But, till then, we have a Relationship...
 - ...Abiding in THE Vine

I. True Vine (1-4)

- Jesus and the apostles are on a walk (14:31)
 - Trees, orchards and olive groves everywhere
 - Father and Son again work together...
 - Father discerns the fruit of Jesus in us (prunes)
- Jesus is the SOURCE vine... (2-4)
 - Apart from Him, no fruit is possible; even in Him
 - Pruning (*airo*) – to lift up, take away, like Judas...
 - Prunes (*kathairo*) – cleanse, remove what is useless
 - Clean (*katharos*) – blameless, because of the *logos*

II. True Abiding (5-8)

- *menos* – remain, dwell, continue to be present...
 - Used over and over of God, Jesus and US!!!
 - NOTE: it goes all ways... us in Him, Him in us
 - He is the vine, we are just branches of Him
 - Carry the “sap” from the root to the fruit!
 - This is the secret of having fruitful lives...
 - But the warning is just as sever... nothing, no fruit
 - And then burned! (6) no fruit there...
 - 8 – keep on bearing MUCH FRUIT... no off time
 - Prove to be His disciples... to whom???

III. True Fruit (9-11)

- Just as Father loves – always in the now!
 - We receive the same love from Jesus – stay in it!
- Father's commands – Jesus has kept them, helps us
 - HIS command? LOVE EACH OTHER (12-17)
 - By keeping that, you WILL ABIDE!!!
- The end result? “MY JOY may be in you”; “your joy may be made full” (11)
 - Is this worth striving for? Abiding in?
 - What would **Father's love & Jesus' joy** do in you?

Consider:

- The concept of abiding is about intimacy
 - Either we are or aren't attached, in Him
 - Striving for fruit is a “dead” end... tying fruit...
 - God's plan is about love and joy
 - But, you can only have it as you remain in HIM
 - There is nothing outside of HIM...
 - We are called His friends (14) when we obey
 - The privileges of family – ask and get!
 - And remember to love one another...
 - It is all about the “if” ...