

## Day Fourteen: Receiving; Receiving Pruning

I'm "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 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. "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. 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. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

John 15:1-8 NKJV

Here Jesus is teaching about abiding. He often teaches verbally and then uses a real-life application to help the students (listeners) to understand God's ways. The vine and Israel's origin and inability to abide are called out in the Old Testament. They are called at origin a 'noble vine' (Isaiah 5:1-7), Hosea 10:1 "Empty Vine" and the Psalmist in Psalm 80:8 says "a vine brought out of Egypt (slavery and bondage). Isn't that a description of each of us in our lives?

In John 15 Jesus calls himself "a True Vine". Israel as a nation was never a true vine although some nations think they are. Jesus is being clear that in our lives He is the one and only "True Vine". He is also saying that only with an intimate living relationship can we be a part of this vine.

It's not enough to be a Jewish or a Christian by geography in the country of origin or by religious affiliate relationships required. In this relationship, He is challenging us to "abide" (hang around, spend time). There are many statements in life: "you are what you eat or "you become who you associate with". These are pillars to a "true vine" of relationship. Jesus was in close continual contact with God (abiding). A relationship requires that we take deliberate steps in a relationship that become

habits over time, to abide. Our challenge is, to be honest, and ask ourselves: What have I been eating? (taking into my life) and who or what is getting my time. Let's challenge ourselves to make a daily appointment with "THE TRUE VINE".

**The measure of our usefulness to God will be found in the measure of His life in us. As the measure of God increases in us, so our usefulness to Him also increases.**

**Unknown**