

# RYF DEVOTION THURSDAY MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

## TODAY'S READING: JOHN 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

## REFLECTION

In the last of His 7 "I am" statements, Jesus says He is "the true vine". The Old Testament often refers to Israel as a vine; God brought them out of Egypt and planted them in the Promised Land, only to have them wander away. Now Jesus declares Himself to be the true vine, faithful to God. Since Jesus is the vine, we are the branches, meant to "bear fruit" (For what it means to bear fruit, see Galatians 5:22-24). In order to bear fruit, to be made more like Christ, this passage describes the painful process of "pruning". The Christian life is not all sunshine and rainbows, but as we face trials, God is making us more Holy as we remain in Christ (James 1:2). Also, Jesus is clear. This is so our "joy may be full".

## PRAYER

If you are a believer, pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen you when you face trials. Pray specifically for any trials that you are facing right now. Pray that God's pruning would produce good fruit in you. If you are not a believer, what "vine" are you apart of? What does it produce?

## FOR FURTHER READING

An Old Testament Promise for God's people to return and bear fruit in Hosea 14