

“I Am the True Vine”

Mount of Olives | February 16, 2026 | John 15:5-8

Guest Speaker: Alison Conrad

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, You are the source of all that is good. You provide for us even when we do not acknowledge Your provision. You guide our steps even when we do not seek Your guidance. Today, we thank You for Your enduring love and faithfulness. We are so grateful that You pour out Your resources upon us unconditionally. Thank You Lord! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 15:5-8

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Message Notes

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Study Questions

Read John 15:5-8

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What's something in your life that you feel especially "connected" to—like a hobby, place, or person—and why?
2. When you hear the word "fruitful," what comes to mind in everyday life?
3. Who is someone you think lives a deeply meaningful or "fruitful" life?

Based on John 15:5-8, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **John 15:5-8**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, "I am the vine; you are the branches"?
2. How does the imagery of a vine and branches help us understand our dependence on Christ?
3. What does Jesus identify as the result of remaining (abiding) in Him?
4. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes that "apart from Me you can do nothing"?
5. What does it look like practically to "remain" in Christ?
6. In verse 6, what is the significance of the imagery of branches that wither and are thrown away?
7. How does this passage connect fruitfulness with discipleship?
8. What role does prayer play in the life of someone who abides in Christ, according to verse 7?
9. How does God's glory relate to our bearing fruit?
10. What kind of "fruit" do you think Jesus is referring to—behavior, character, influence, obedience, something else?
11. How does this passage fit into the larger context of Jesus' teaching in John 14–16?
12. What does Jesus mean when He says that bearing fruit shows we are His disciples?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. In what areas of your life do you sense God inviting you to abide more deeply in Him?
2. What practices help you stay connected to Christ on a daily basis, and which ones might you want to strengthen?
3. Where do you see evidence of spiritual "fruit" in your life right now?
4. What might be hindering fruitfulness in your relationship with Jesus, and how could you address it?
5. How can you intentionally align your prayers with Jesus' words so that they flow from abiding in Him?