

Daily Devotions

Day 1: The True Vine

Reading: *John 15:1-5*

Jesus declares Himself the "true vine," contrasting with Israel's failure to produce spiritual fruit. Where the nation fell short of God's purposes, Christ succeeded perfectly. This is not just about religious performance but about identity and connection. When you placed your faith in Christ, you were grafted into the true vine. Your fruitfulness doesn't come from striving harder but from abiding deeper. The branch doesn't manufacture grapes through effort; it simply stays connected to the vine. Today, consider this truth: you are organically connected to Jesus. Your spiritual vitality flows directly from Him. The question isn't whether you can bear fruit, but whether you're remaining connected to the One who makes fruitfulness possible.

Day 2: Drawn by the Father

Reading: *John 6:44-45; John 12:32*

Before you ever sought God, He was drawing you to Himself. This divine initiative is staggering. Jesus promises that when He was lifted up on the cross, He would draw all people to Himself. The Father's drawing isn't limited to a select few but extended to everyone. This means every person you encounter today has been drawn by God and given the ability to respond. You didn't stumble into salvation by accident; you were pursued by love. This should humble us and energize our witness. If God is drawing people everywhere, our role is to cooperatively present the gospel, trusting the Spirit's work. Who in your life needs to hear about the One drawing them near?

Day 3: Belief and Belonging

Reading: *John 5:24; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27*

The moment you believed in Jesus, something supernatural occurred. The Holy Spirit didn't just save you; He baptized you into Christ's body. You became part of something infinitely larger than yourself. The phrase "in Christ" appears throughout Scripture, describing not just positional security but relational intimacy. You are in Christ as the Son is in the Father. This union is unbreakable. Many Christians live with lingering doubts about their standing with God, but Scripture is clear: belief brings you into Christ permanently. You've passed from death to life, from judgment to acceptance. Let this truth settle deep today: you belong to Jesus, and nothing can separate you from His love.

Day 4: What is Fruit?

Galatians 5:22-23; Matthew 7:16-20

Fruit is the visible evidence of invisible life. When Jesus speaks of bearing fruit, He means bearing things that benefit others and glorify God. This includes evangelism, service, character transformation, prayer, generosity, and exercising spiritual gifts. Notice that fruit isn't primarily for the branch's benefit but for others to enjoy. A fruitful Christian life looks outward. The fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience—are relational qualities that bless those around us. Fruit bearing isn't automatic for believers; it requires intentionality. Are you actively serving in God's kingdom? Are you growing in Christlike character? Are you sharing your faith? Fruitfulness isn't about earning salvation but about living out the abundant life Christ offers.

Day 5: The Vinedresser's Care

Reading: *Hebrews 12:5-11; John 15:2*

The Father, as vinedresser, has one primary goal: maximum fruitfulness in your life. To accomplish this, He employs various methods—discipline, pruning, encouragement, and shaping. This isn't punishment but purposeful cultivation. Every difficulty you face, every season of pruning, serves the greater purpose of increased fruitfulness. The vinedresser never damages branches carelessly; every cut is strategic and loving. Hebrews reminds us that God disciplines those He loves. When life feels hard, remember you're not being abandoned but tended. The Master Gardener is at work in your life, removing what hinders growth and strengthening what produces fruit. Trust His process. The pruning may be painful, but the harvest will be abundant. Yield to His skillful hands today.

Deacons on Call

Josh Bell and David Downs

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** See you at VBS ... **June 28-July 1**
- **First Youth:** See Eric for end of school and summer schedule

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Bearing Fruit Part 1

JOHN 15:1-10

Verses we all
need to Memorize

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:17** ESV

MAY 31, 2026

Bearing Fruit Part 1

JOHN 15:1-10

Jesus, walking with the disciples toward the Garden of Gethsemane, gives life lessons to His disciples using the familiar example of growing grapes. With that analogy in mind, let's begin this series by better understanding the terms being employed by our great and wonderful Savior and Teacher.

1. The vinedresser is _____.

2. The true vine is _____.

3. The branches are _____.

a. Jesus is _____ believers.

b. To be in Christ is to be a _____.

c. How does one get in Christ?

• _____ is drawn to Jesus.

• One must _____ in Jesus to be saved.

• Once one believes, the Holy Spirit _____ the believer in Christ.

4. Fruit is the produce that _____ others and glorifies God.

Scripture References (In order of use): Hebrews 12:6; John 14:31; Psalm 80:8-11; Jeremiah 2:21; John 14:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 6:44; John 12:32; John 3:16; John 5:24; Ephesians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27; Galatians 5:22-23; John 5:24
Reference Works: Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John (Bob Utley); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings); John (Kenneth O. Gangel); John (Barnabas Lindars)

Discussion Questions

1. Has anyone in the group planted a garden this year? What are you hoping to harvest?
2. Read **John 15:1-10**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose a grapevine as His metaphor for describing our relationship with Him? What makes this image particularly powerful?
4. How does understanding Israel as the "untrue vine" help us appreciate Jesus as the "true vine"?
5. What does it mean practically to be "in Christ" in your daily life? How does this identity shape your decisions and relationships?
6. Review the list of spiritual fruits mentioned in the sermon (evangelism, service, spiritual gifts, prayer, Bible study, fruits of the Spirit, etc.). Which areas are you currently bearing fruit in? Which areas need more attention?
7. Patrick stated that fruit-bearing is "normal and natural, but not inevitable or automatic." What do you think prevents believers from bearing fruit? What obstacles do you personally face?
8. How can we tell the difference between genuine spiritual fruit and religious activity that doesn't actually benefit others?
9. How can we pray for your oikos today?
10. When can we get together this summer and have a good time together?



The first step to changing your world is to
frame your world ... so make a list.