

I AM: The Vine

John 15:4-8 Part 3 5/06/2018

The Explanation of & Expectation for Fruitfulness (v.4-6)

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

v. 4: Addressing Fruitfulness

- A Command to Abide
- A Commitment to Abide
- A Comparison for Illustration

⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

v. 5: Abiding Brings Fruitfulness

- Because the Abider Recognizes Identity
 - Who the Vine IS (Jesus is I AM)
 - What the Branches are NOT (We are not able apart from Him)
- Because the Abider Relies on Provision
 - The Vine will supply what is needed & not neglect fruit-bearing
 - The Branch must rely on what is given & not reject fruit-bearing

⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

v. 6: Absence of Fruitfulness

- v.2 The Father takes away branches that do not bear fruit
 - An Absence of Fruit indicates an Absent Faith
 - A Non-fruit bearing branch is a non-abiding branch
 - Parable of Soils (Mk 4), Those who cry Lord, Lord (Mt 7:21-23)
 - Tasting/partaking of truth & Spirit only to reject (Heb 6:4-6)

- v.6 illustrates the Father's work of "taking away" v.2
 - This is a branch that does not abide & therefore is not able
 - Note that "And I in you" is not present in this description
 - Cast out from proximity to the vine
 - Confirmed fruitless as it withers & is dried
 - Gathered, Cast Into the Fire, & Consumed

- A warning against the dangers of repeating Judas' apostasy
 - Those w/ absent fruit because of absent faith ignore warnings
 - Those w/o available fruit because of anemic faith heed warning

The Inspiration for & Invitation to Fruitfulness (v.7-8)

⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

v. 8: Abundant Fruitfulness

- Abundant Fruitfulness Glorifies the Father Our Redeemer
- Abundant Fruitfulness Gratifies the Son Our Provider
- Abundant Fruitfulness Verifies the Faith of the Abider
 - Every fruitful disciple displays Christ's fruitfulness
 - Every fruitful disciple discovers Christ's faithfulness

*Has Unbelief hindered your Abiding & Bearing of Much Fruit?

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

v. 7: Asking for Fruitfulness

- Abiding is an invitation to ask for fruitfulness
 - Abiding Words are the parameters for whatever the abider wishes
 - His Words of Truth to Be Believed
 - His Words of Hope to Be Trusted
 - His Words of Life to Be Realized
 - His Words of Instruction to Be Obeyed

*Will you ask & abide in faith to produce the fruit His Words Reveal?