

Connected to the Source

John 15:1-11

The immediate meaning:

The dead branch (Judas) had been cut off. The other branches (the eleven faithful disciples) had been pruned and prepared for a season of fruit-bearing.

The timeless truth:

God wants to shape us (prune us) into people who consistently bear the fruit of Jesus' character.

The key to bearing fruit:

If we remain in Him, bearing fruit will be _____.

If we choose to not remain in Him, bearing fruit will be _____.

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

*⁴**Remain** in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must **remain** in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you **remain** in me.*

*⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man **remains** in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you **remain** in me and my words **remain** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.*

By remaining in the True Vine:

We will live more
 a _____

We will respond more
 j _____

We will love more
 c _____

⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

*⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now **remain** in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and **remain** in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

Where to go from here:

- Visit <http://parkerhill.wordpress.com> – where you will find follow-up questions for you and your small group
- Read the following passages slowly, thoughtfully and prayerfully:
 - Monday: Psalm 1 ▪ Tuesday: Psalm 19 ▪ Wednesday: Psalm 33
 - Thursday: Psalm 40 ▪ Friday: Psalm 96

Take the 60/60 challenge: For 60 days, set your watch, cell phone, or some other beeper to go off every sixty minutes as a reminder to connect with God. At sound of your alarm, take a few moments to turn your thoughts back to God in prayer.

- In your interactions, ask: "What do you want me to say?"
- In your decisions, ask: "What is your will here?"
- In your challenges, ask: "What can I learn?"
- In your disappointments, ask: "Why is this happening now God?"