



## **That's My Jam: Roots, Vines, and Branches**

**Speaker: Pastor Andrew Smith | 7.25.2021**

1. Of the three things Pastor Andrew mentioned as our “desires” from God (Safety, Security, Stability), which means the most to you?
2. How do you measure each of these desires In your life?

### **Read John 15: 1-5**

3. Pastor Andrew stated, “The harder the soil, the hotter the weather, the better the fruit.” How does this statement about grapes and vines mirror our spiritual walk?
4. What “fruit” does God want to produce in us?
5. Jesus says that the Father casts away all the branches that produce no fruit. What do you think He was referring to?
6. The Father also “prunes” the branches bearing fruit to produce “more” fruit. Share a time when you experienced God’s “pruning.” What was pruned? What was the result?
7. Jesus goes beyond “more” fruit to producing “much” fruit. How is this accomplished?
8. What steps are you willing to take to “remain” or “be with” Jesus more each day?
9. Pastor Andrew challenged us to ask the question, “What do you want me to learn” in the hard times of life. Is that usually your first response to difficulty? Why or why not?
10. “Don’t waste the pain.” What does this mean in your experience?
11. Pastor Andrew mentioned, “we want the product without going through the process.” Where have you seen this in your life?
12. In wine production, the process includes being selected, cut, crushed, refined, and maturing (or fermenting.) How do these steps mirror God’s process of maturing us? What stage do you think you are in? Why?
13. “Grapes don’t grow overnight.” How does the grace God extends to you apply to others? Whose job is it to produce “spiritual fruit?”
14. We were challenged to ask two questions:
  - a. When life is hard, what is God producing in me?
  - b. When we are being pruned, what is He preparing us for?
15. How does the image of the “woody T” reflect God’s work in us? Are we focused on the loss or the cross?