

“I Am the True Vine”

John 15:1-12

John 15:1-11 – Seven Takeaways From the Vine:

1. Jesus is the real Israel (v1)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

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John 15:1

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is the **gardener**.

I am the true **vine**, and my Father is the gardener (Jhn. 15:1)

I will sing about the one I love, a song about my loved one's **vineyard**: The one I love had a **vineyard** on a very fertile hill. (Isa. 5:1ff)

² On that day, sing about a desirable **vineyard**: ³ I am YHWH, who watches over it to water it regularly. So that no one disturbs it, I watch over it night and day. (Isa. 27:2-3ff)

⁸ You dug up a **vine** from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. ⁹ You cleared a place for it; it took root and filled the land. (Ps. 80:8-9ff)

cf. Jer. 6:9; 12:10-13; Ezk. 15:1-8; 17:5-10; 19:10-14; Hos. 10:1-2; 14:7

(over the doors of the temple) was spread a golden vine, with its branches hanging down from a great height, the largeness and fine workmanship of which was a surprising sight to the spectators, to see what materials there were, and with what great skill the workmanship was done.

- Josephus, *Antiquities* (15.11.3)



I am the true **vine**, and my Father is the gardener (Jhn. 15:1)

¹ I will sing about the one I love, a song about my loved one's **vineyard**: The one I love had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He broke up the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted it with the finest vines. He built a tower in the middle of it and even dug out a winepress there. He expected it to yield good grapes, but it yielded worthless grapes (*lit.* 'stink fruit'). (Isa. 5:1-2)

cf. Hos. 10:1-2; Jer. 2:21

“I am the **true** vine, and my Father
is the gardener.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the
gardener (John 15:1)

²¹ I planted you, a choice vine
from the very best seed.

How then could you turn into
a degenerate, foreign vine?

(Jeremiah 2:21 CSB)

I am the true (ἀληθινός)

Vine (ἄμπελος), and my Father is the
gardener (John 15:1)

²¹ I planted you, a true (ἀληθινός)

vine (άμπελος) (LXX)

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How then could you turn into
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(Jeremiah 2:21)

14 Return, God of Armies.

Look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,

15 the root your right hand
planted,

the son that you made strong for
yourself.

“I am the **true** **vine**, and my Father
is the **gardener**.

John 15:1 cf. Jer. 2:21; Ps. 80:14-18

“I am the true vine, and my Father
is the gardener.

John 15:1-11 – Seven Takeaways From the Vine:

1. Jesus is the real Israel (v1)
2. God prunes us to bear more fruit (v2)

¹ “I am the true vine, and **my**
Father is the gardener. ² Every
branch in me that does not
produce fruit he removes, and he
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John 15:1-2 cf. Luke 8:18; Rom. 5:3-5; Heb. 12:6, 10-11; Jam. 1:2-4

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3. Jesus cleanses us by His word (v3)

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² Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes **καθαίρω** every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. ³ You are already **clean καθαρός** because of the word I have spoken to you.

John 15:2-3 cf. 13:9-11

⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” ¹⁰ “One who has bathed,” Jesus told him, “doesn’t need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean καθαρός. You are clean καθαρός, but not all of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, “Not all of you are clean καθαρός.”

John 13:9-11 cf. 15:3

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John 15:2-3 cf. 13:9-11; 4:41; 10:19; 17:20

24 “Truly I tell you, anyone who hears **my word** and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.

John 5:24 cf. 15:3

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2. God prunes us to bear more fruit (v2)
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4. We can only bear fruit in Christ (vv4-5)

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² Every branch **in me** that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

⁴ Remain **in me**, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain **in me**. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains **in me** and I **in him** produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ⁶ If anyone does not remain **in me**, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

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John 15:4-6 **μένω** = stay, continue, dwell

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13 This is how we know that
we remain in him and he in us:
He has given us of his Spirit.

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2. God prunes us to bear more fruit (v2)
3. Jesus cleanses us by His word (v3)
4. We can only bear fruit in Christ (vv4-5)
5. Ask and you will receive (vv7-8)

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

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John 15:7-8 cf. Matt. 6:9-10; 7:7-11; Jam. 4:1-3; 1 Jhn. 5:14-15

¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

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6. Love produces obedience (vv9-10)

9 “As the Father has loved me,
I have also loved you. Remain
in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my
commands you will remain in
my love, just as I have kept my
Father’s commands and
remain in his love.

John 15:9-10 cf. 14:15; 1 John 4

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¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And we have this command from him: **The one who loves God must also love his brother and sister.**

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7. Abiding entails enjoying and experiencing the very joy of Jesus by loving others (vv11-12)

11 “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. 12 “This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you.

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²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what **fruit** was produced then from the things you are now ashamed of? The outcome of those things is death. ²² But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your **fruit**, which results in sanctification—and the outcome is eternal life! ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:20-23

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