



Abiding in Jesus: Part I John 15:1-6

Jesus invites us to abide in His plan (program).

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Text Message:

- o When we think of Jesus’ plan, we think of His plan for **my life**; Jesus thinks of His plan in terms of **His Church!**
- o To understand what Jesus is saying here, we must look at the words “true vine.” *What did Jesus mean by these words?*
- o The metaphor of “the vine” was well-known in the first century and referred exclusively to Israel as a nation.
- o Israel was “God’s vine” (See Psalm 80:8-12 and Isaiah 5:1-7).
- o It is important to see that Psalm 80, Isaiah 5, **and** John 15 share a similar context: Israel’s sin and consequences.
- o For Jesus to say He is the “true vine” means He is “true Israel” and what was once true of Israel is now part of His plan.
- o We can think of it like this (A little history “His Story” Lesson):
Old Covenant (Testament):
Abraham>Twelve sons >Israel>a nation>the glory of God.
New Covenant (Testament):
Jesus>Twelve apostles>new Israel>nation**S**>the glory of God.

Jesus invites us to abide in His presence.

⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Text Message:

- o The word “abide” appears 10 times in John 15:4-11.
- o Here Jesus invites His disciples into a deeper relationship:
 - 1) Jesus first called the disciples to follow Him.
 - 2) Jesus then called the disciples to believe in Him.
 - 3) Jesus ultimately called the disciples to abide in Him.
- o *What does abiding in Jesus look like today?*
Acknowledge His presence in the right here and now.
Believe the truth of abiding over thoughts and feelings.
Invoke His powerful Name in all of life.
Deny the self-life for the life of Christ in you (Galatians 2:20).
Express your desire for, and **Expectation** of much fruit.

Jesus invites us to abide in His peace.

⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Text Message:

- o *How in the world does this verse relate to peace?*
- o In context (Psalm 80, Isaiah 5, John 15), this verse does not refer to hell but to the fate of Jerusalem for choosing the way of violent rebellion against Rome, rather than the way (plan or program) of Jesus.
- o This took place **literally** in AD 70, as “branches” were gathered and thrown into the fire of Jerusalem’s destruction.
- o Jesus is using the metaphor of a “branch” much like we would refer to a “branch” of an organization (i.e. branch of a bank).
- o Branches that were destroyed in the fire included the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes.
- o For those who chose to abide in Jesus, peace was experienced instead of destruction (Matt. 23:37, Luke 13:34).
- o We experience Jesus’ peace through abiding obedience to Him. To live outside of this is to be “burned!”