

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every 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. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide 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. ⁵ I 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. ⁶ If 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. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Theme: Nearness and Pruning

I. The OT basis of the metaphor –

- Psalm 80:8 – “You (the LORD) brought a vine out of _____”
- Isaiah 5:1-7 – “The vineyard of the LORD is _____”
- Jeremiah 2:21 – “I (the LORD) planted you a _____ vine”
- Hosea 10:1 – “Israel is a _____ vine”

II. Understanding the metaphor –

- Selection of the vine and the soil was essential
- _____ kinds of branches that would grow
- Drastic pruning was for the _____ of a branch and the vine
- The branches cut off were good for _____

III. Abiding in Christ –

1. Read John 15:1-2 –

- Describe your understanding of vine-dressing (taking care of a vineyard → if no one understands, then talk about gardening and the work needed to produce good fruits and vegetables).
- How is this similar to the Christian life?

2. Read John 15:3-11

- What is needed to bear fruit?
- Why is pruning good for the Christian?
- In what ways is the Lord pruning you? (Do you dare to go deep?)

3. Related to this pruning, what is the Lord saying to you?

4. Prayer requests?



This is a Denarii called Bar Kokhba from the era of the Jewish-Roman revolt of 132-135 AD.