You Are the Branches

Johnathan Banning · John 15:1–11

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus is very fond of metaphors. He uses them all the time in his preaching.
- When Jesus is about to leave this world in this last night, his last chance to speak to his disciples before the cross, he picks one final picture.
- I am the vine, and you are the branches. That's his last picture, his last metaphor. And it's something that his disciples need to hold on to tightly.

1 Jesus Bears Fruit Through Me

John 15:5; Matthew 5:13–14

- Jesus bears fruit through me. That's the way it works with living things, any living thing. The vine bears fruit through its branches.
- You produce something that is good, something that is a blessing to other people.
- He's saying, you are the thing I'm going to use to bless the people of this world.
- We are his branches, we are his vessels, we are his conduit.

2 Bearing Fruit Is My Purpose

Romans 6:11–13

- Bearing fruit is my purpose. To bear fruit for Jesus, to accomplish good things through him and to bless this world.
- Branches do one thing, they produce fruit after their kind.
- Present yourself to God as those alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- You're one of the tools in God's tool shed that He's going to use to bless this world. That is your purpose.

3 Bearing Fruit Is My Greatest Source of Joy

John 15:11

- Bearing fruit for Him is my greatest source of joy, satisfaction, and fulfillment.
- There is an undeniable beauty to living things that are bearing fruit.
- These things I have spoken to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
- The only way for me to have joy and fulfillment in this life is to live a life that glorifies God.
- You are not going to find your joy and fulfillment and satisfaction in anything. Except using your life to glorify God in living for his purpose.

4 Pruning Is Necessary

John 15:1–2

- Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he takes away, and every branch that bears fruit, he prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.
- You cut away things that are going to inhibit the growth of the tree.
- God cuts things out of our lives to promote growth. Sometimes that's sin, but it's not always sin.
- We need to be willing, as branches, to allow God to engage in that pruning process.

5 The Secret to Bearing Fruit Is Connection

John 15:4–5; John 15:10; Galatians 2:20

- The secret to bearing fruit is connection.
- Even though it is so far away from the trunk, it still bears fruit because it's still connected to the root.
- As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in me.
- If we are disconnected from him, we can do nothing.
- If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love.
- Abiding in Jesus means obeying Jesus.

THE CHALLENGE

I want to ask you this evening, if you're abiding in Jesus, are you truly seeking in your life to submit your will to his and follow his commands?

MY NOTES