

Jesus the True Vine

Notes for 5 Nov

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Background

Matt	Mark	Luke	John
			15:1-27

Discussion

This chapter is often seen as the heart of Jesus's farewell in John. This section contains one of the last of the key 'I am' sayings that John has in his gospel: I am the true vine.

The vine is a key metaphor in the Old and New Testament. Look up some of these passages and compare and contrast how Jesus uses vine here, with other biblical authors:

- [Psalm 80](#)
- [Ezekiel 15](#)
- [Hosea 10](#)

Jesus uses an extended metaphor here. Jesus is a vine, God is a gardener, the disciples (and presumably us) are the branches. But, what do the terms 'remove' and 'prune' entail? (See 15:2) When a branch is removed, what does that mean? When a branch is pruned, what does that mean?

What do you think are the fruit that Jesus talks of?

Jesus speaks of love and commandments. How do you think these two relate?

Personally, I find John 15:16 the hardest to interpret of this chapter. Two questions:

1. What do you think Jesus means with 'You did not choose me but I chose you'? Does that also apply to us, or just to the disciples?
2. The second half of this verse is often found on bathroom tiles and posters. How do you interpret 'the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name'?

There is a strong difference in tone between 15:1-17 and 15:18-27. Jesus swaps from talking about 'love' to talking about 'hate'. What do you think is the point of this change of language?

The second part of this chapter reminds me a lot of the very traditional Adventist context that I grew up in: constantly worried about persecution and contamination by 'the world'. How do you interpret these verses in response to that background?

Jesus quotes the Psalms (calling it 'their law'), either [Psalm 35](#) or - more likely - [Psalm 69](#). Read these Psalms and reflect on how these apply to Jesus and this passage.