



The Dynamic Gospel Study Guide – Book of John

Chapter 15

1 As the disciples got together their things, Jesus continued. “I am the most fruitful vine planted in the best field. My Father started this vineyard and tends it carefully even today.

2 “He doesn't waste time with dead branches. He cuts out the useless thickets and prunes the false starts from the productive branches so they continue to produce more and more.

3 “The words you've heard Me say accomplish much the same thing - cleaning up the mess in your hearts.

4 “Since you are branches, you'd best stick with Me. Firewood and mulch don't produce any fruit. Live branches produce fruit. But we need to do it together. Remember where the root is. Without Me you can do nothing.

5 “I am the root stock. You are the offshoots. You were grafted in for the simple purpose of producing fruit - **My** fruit. Together we can produce a bumper crop. Without Me you'll have nothing but withered leaves and bitter raisins.

6 “If you insist on going it alone, you're headed for the slash pile. What else is the Farmer to do with you? All dried up and lying on the path. You'll be tossed to the flames before you become more of a nuisance.

7 “But if you stay rooted in and grow patiently, My very words coursing through your veins, when you have a need the request will rise to My ears like music. It will be natural for Me to tell you “Yes!” Consider it a done deal.

8 “You know what brings My Father great honor? To see you become fruitful and productive with your lives in the things that matter. It shows you learned something after all and that I'm not a half-bad teacher.

9 “To the same degree the Father demonstrates His love for Me, together We demonstrate it to you. Learn from it. Live it. And don't stop.

10 “And here's how: Take seriously what I've told you. Memorize it. Follow it. Obey it. Then you'll know how much I've loved you all along. You've seen it in Me since we first met - I pursue the things My Father approves, like a bulldog after a bone. His love for Me doesn't depend on performance but it sure is great to hear Him say how proud He is.

11 “I'm saying this now, so that when I'm gone My joy will live on in you. This joy will feed your souls and keep hope alive.

12 “This is the rule by which I've lived - now I pass it on to you: Live lovingly toward each other. Be intentional about it.

13 “Do you want to be great in love? Count your life as worthless compared to the honor of loving - that means serving - your friends.

14 "My true friends live by this rule.

15 "I may be 'Master' but I've never called you slaves. A slave has no clue what the plan is and certainly isn't invited to the planning meetings. All along I've called you what you are - My friends. Confidants get the inside scoop and I've held nothing back from you. As the Father spoke it, I relayed it to you without hesitation.

16 "Whether you chose Me or not, I chose **you**. I've set you apart to lead by example. Bear fruit in your lives and show the world how it's done. Be reliable and consistent and there's nothing I won't do for you. Just ask. Remind Us that the Father's reputation is on the line and watch the answers pour down like rain.

17 "Do these things and you show how much you love each other. Make love the rule by which you live.

18 "If the world hates you for it, so what? It's been no picnic for Me either. If they hated Me and you demonstrate My kind of love, you'll be attacked. Just plan on it.

19 "If you stayed in their fold you'd be part of the hating team. But I called you out of there. Now you're traitors to their cause, and they can't stand it.

20 "Remember what I told you earlier and take it to heart - the slave is never greater than his master. If this 'Master' of yours is constantly hounded don't expect to be free of persecution. When the going gets tough, those who followed Me faithfully will stick with you.

21 "And all the bad stuff the world throws at you is simply because you bear My mark. They prove they are no friends of the One who sent Me.

22 "If I hadn't gotten in their faces about how rotten their lives were, they could have gone on merrily denying their sins. Too late for that now - they've been outed and they know it!

23 "So they hate Me for it. That means they hate the Father too, of course, but they'll never admit it.

24 "If I hadn't done with My own hands what they deny is possible, they could have continued their arrogant self-deception that miracles don't happen. So My generosity ticked them off, and they resent Me for pointing out their stupid doctrine. I've shown how much they actually hate the God they profess to worship.

25 "It's just another example of prophesy coming true. Right there in black and white is says "they'll despise Me without any justification whatsoever."

26 "But another reliable witness will speak up for Me – the Holy Spirit Himself. Once I've returned home I'll dispatch Him to you. He will lead you into a full understanding of the Truth and remind you of everything I've done.

27 "And your experience is an important part of the story, too – you were all there from the beginning."

Explain the Context:

From your reading provide a short answer to the following:

What is the theme of this chapter?	What is the BIG Idea?
What is something that surprised you?	What is this chapter <i>not</i> saying?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is the “**true**” vine?
- 2) Can you remember a time in your life it felt like you were being pruned? Describe how it felt and the kind of fruit you produced from the pruning.
- 3) What does it look like for you to remain in Him (vs.4)?
- 4) What is Jesus’ “I AM” statement in this chapter?
- 5) Verse 7 in the Dynamic Gospel says our voices are like “music” to Jesus ears. How does this statement resonate with you?

- 6) Jesus says He has spoken these words so that His joy will be in us and that it would make our joy complete. How do His words in this passage bring you joy?
- 7) In verse 15, Jesus calls us His friends. Do you see yourself as Jesus' friend? If so...how? If not...why not?
- 8) In what ways does the world "hate" the fruit you produce because of your attachment to the Vine?
- 9) How do Jesus' words in verse 20 give you confidence in your attachment to the Vine?
- 10) In verses 24 & 25, Jesus says, *"If I hadn't done with My own hands what they deny is possible, they could have continued their arrogant self-deception that miracles don't happen. So My generosity ticked them off, and they resent Me for pointing out their stupid doctrine. I've shown how much they actually hate the God they profess to worship. It's just another example of prophesy coming true. Right there in black and white is says "they'll despise Me without any justification whatsoever."*
~ How do you see this showing up in today's culture?
- 11) How does the promise of the Holy Spirit in your life give you confidence to speak the words of Jesus to others?

Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

For further study:

- Exodus 3:14
- Matthew 3:10
- Psalm 24:3-6
- Titus 1:15
- John 14:14
- 1 John 3:16
- Ephesians 1:4
- Ezekiel 2:5
- Psalm 69:4