

# John 15 - Chosen to Bear Fruit

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## The LORD is interested in FRUIT

Joh 15:1-27 ESV "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.

- Cutting away of branches that do not bear fruit
- Pruning branches that DO bear fruit...(so that it may bear MORE fruit)
- The word for clean in the GREEK is the same root word as the word for PRUNE

## **THE FRUIT - a case can be made for fruit of the spirit (personal growth) and (souls as well)**

Mat 21:43 ESV Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and **given to a people producing its fruits**.

## Abiding in Him is the way to fruitfulness - What is abiding?

- 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.

### 1) Abiding in Him is letting His words abide in you

- 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**.
  - The foundation of prayer is the word of God...His words abide in my - ask what you will
  - Seems the context of the asking has to do with the kingdom and the bearing of fruit
  - **The Father is glorified when we bear much fruit**
  - We prove to be disciples of Jesus by **bearing much fruit**

### 2) Abiding in Him is letting His love abide in you - and abiding in love is keeping commandments

- 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.

### 3) Abiding in Him has the side affect of Joy, love and OBEDIENCE

- 11 These things I have spoken to you, that **my joy may be in you**, and that **your joy may be full**. 12 "This is my commandment, that you **love one another as I have loved you**. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 **You are my friends if you do what I command you**. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the

servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.**

### Chosen by Jesus for fruitfulness

- 16 You did not choose me, but I **chose you and appointed you** that you should **go and bear fruit** and that your fruit should abide, **so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.**
  - Here again we see answered prayer in the context of fruitfulness
  - What if we were to pray to God for fruitfulness
  - Psa 2:8 KJV **Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen [the nations]** for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

### 4) Abiding in Him produces love for one another

- 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.
  - If we keep these commands, loving one another will result (commands are to abide)

### Chosen out of the world

- 18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but **I chose you out of the world**, therefore the world hates you.
  - He chose us **out of the world** that we could be fruitful and in a sense bring the world back to Him -- **I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit**

### The servant is not greater than the master

- 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.** 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.

### When the Helper comes, the Spirit of Truth - He will bear witness about me

- 25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.' 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.** 27 And **you also will bear witness**, because you have been with me from the beginning.

## STORIES OF FRUITFULNESS

### **Abiding in Christ,**

- Letting his word abide in them - obedience based discipleship
- His Love abiding in you - loving the brothers, loving the stranger, loving the lost

### **Ghana Africa**

2 years they have had 650 baptisms with 187 groups

### **India**

16 years they started 200,000 churches 5.4 million baptisms

### **Africa**

- In 5 years 10,037 new churches average size 47 = (471,000 converts)
- In 7 years 5,000 churches with 250,000 new believers (1/2 of these are former muslims)
- In 14 years they had seen 400,000 people come to the LORD

### **India**

In 7 years from 15 men to 35,000 house churches and more than 200,000 baptisms

### **Honduras**

In 4 years - 4,634 new churches

### **Nepal and Bhutan**

In July 2006 they had 3 churches,

- by the end of 2006 - 60 churches
- by the end of 2014 (8 years) - 10,000 new churches

Another man in the area had 11 churches in July 2007

- by August 2008 they had 100 churches, he asked the LORD what to do and he said train the 100 churches to plant 3 churches each - by the beginning of 2009 they had 422 churches, what did he do next, he trained the 422 churches to plant 3 churches each