

**Luke 9:23** - Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life.

- ✓ We saw that a disciple learns, loves, and lives the Word of God and that Disciples make disciples.
- ✓ Today: If we follow Jesus, He will make us fruitful.
- ✓ **John 15:1-5, 8** - Vines and grapes are one of the most consistent illustrations of God's people throughout Scripture.
- ✓ **Psalms 80:8; Jeremiah 2:21** - He rescued them so that they could bring Him glory through the way they acted, thought, treated others, and their testimony to the nations around them of the excellencies of God.

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**1. Since God has rescued us, it is important for us to know why.**

- ✓ God saved us through the sacrifice of Jesus so that we could be His.
- ✓ Now that we are His, He has planted us here for a purpose. Saved us so we could be His, left us here to bear fruit.
- ✓ **Ephesians 2:8-10** – This is our purpose in life; not being happy, not growing old, making money, owning your own home, relaxation, having a family or anything else.
- ✓ Your purpose is God-ordained good works/bearing fruit.

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**2. God has Grape-expectations of us!** Our entire purpose of being here is this fruitfulness that God has planned for us.

- ✓ There is a predominant thought among believers that God is just fine with us being saved and doing nothing else.
- ✓ Here's Jesus' advice: Don't buy it! it's a very bad bargain **Luke 9:24**
- ✓ Holding on to what you have, your ways, your plans, or your dreams is a huge mistake because you'll be missing what Jesus wants to give you.
- ✓ "I'm going to heaven; how can I lose?" – You're going to heaven, but you lose your entire purpose for being planted here—You lose your life here—don't buy that!
- ✓ God planted you for one purpose, to bear fruit.

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**3. Understanding what God expects helps us understand the Christian life a whole lot better.**

**1) Jesus is the True Vine – Verse 1**—Being a vine in the spiritual sense is how Jesus relates to believers whom He has planted here.

- ✓ The word for vine here actually is reference to the relatively ugly trunk of a grape vine.
- ✓ **Isaiah 53:2**; This is how Jesus relates to us whom He has planted, so if we don't know this about Him, we will have a harder time relating to what He's doing in our lives as Christians.
- ✓ The whole issue of discipleship begins with the mentality that we are here to serve Him and not the other way around.
- ✓ Jesus is going to relate to us as a vine does to a branch. **John 15:16** we have an appointment we will be held accountable for.

**2) The Father is the Vinedresser;** This is the farmer, the gardener. His primary task is to grow grapes.

- ✓ God's purposes and plans are very clear cut, no mysteries, or ethereal connotations.
  - ✓ God has saved you and planted you so that you can produce fruit.
  - ✓ God will relate to you like a gardener does to branches that he wants to bear fruit.
  - ✓ Fruit is only produced one way.
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**3) We are the Branches** – To say that the branch's job is to produce fruit actually isn't exactly true.

- ✓ Notice: Jesus doesn't say "I'm the vine, go and produce fruit"
  - ✓ Notice: Jesus says, "Abide in Me and you will bear much fruit"
  - ✓ Where does fruit grow on a branch? Near the end.
  - ✓ Where do branches attach to a trunk? Near the beginning, the opposite end from where the fruit is at.
  - ✓ Jesus doesn't say "go and produce fruit" because branches can't produce fruit—at least not by themselves.
  - ✓ The Vine produces fruit through the branch.
  - ✓ The Branch's sole job is to hang onto the Vine.
  - ✓ Notice: Jesus says "Follow Me" not follow a list of rules or set of doctrines or dogmas.
  - ✓ Again, where you abide is where you live—we saw this when we saw that a follower of Jesus abides or lives in the Word.
  - ✓ So, we abide in the Word not so that we can just get smarter and be able spout Bible truths, but so that we can Abide in Jesus, a real person in a real, ongoing, lifechanging relationship.
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