

**INTRODUCTION:** This parable of THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES constitutes a part of Jesus' farewell discourse spoken in "the upper room" to the eleven disciples.

1. Judas had already departed into the darkness. John 13:30

2. A few minutes later (John 13:33) Jesus told them good-bye. "Little children, yet a little while I am with you: Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go ye cannot come; so now I say unto you."

*may have been  
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darkness -*

### WHY THIS PARABLE WAS SPOKEN

No doubt there are several reason why Jesus taught this wonderful lesson on the vine and the branches. However it may takes its roots from that which Jesus had said in John 14:20: "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." What did Jesus say here? He said:

1. That two persons (God and Christ) should be in each other.
2. That many persons (the apostles, all Christians) should be in one person: Christ.
3. That one person (Christ) should be in many.

*Planning & working  
in the field of action*

These are special ideas hard to grasp and because of the difficulty the Lord added the parable of the vine and the branches: the basis for our lesson today.

### WHAT WE SEE IN CLEARNESS IN THE PARABLE: We see four things:

1. Without the vine the branches can do nothing. John 15:4

1. "The branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

1. They cannot cleanse themselves. "Ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." (Verse 3.)

2. Separated branches from the vine cannot bear fruit. (v. 4,5,8)

2. Without the branches the vine can do nothing.

1. If the disciples are barren, the Father is not glorified; the vineyard of the Lord is fruitless. (John 15:8.)

3. Everything that the vine has belongs to the branches.

1. The nourishment of the vine, the very life of the vine belongs to the branches. All that the vine receives, it gives to the branches.

2. The branches are joint-heirs with the vine. Romans 8:17; "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him."

4. That the unfruitful branch will be taken away. John 15:2; "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away." John 15:6; "If any man abide not in me..." What is the penalty?:

1. He is cast forth as a branch.

2. He is withered.

1. One full of sap, once green and fruitful. But now: Shrivelled, unattractive, useless, a discredit to his profession of Christ.

3. Men gather them, cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

1. The end of a useless life. One time active, living branches, but now no more than dead sticks fit to be burned. What an end!







TWO BRANCHES INVOLVED. John 15:21. The non-bearing branch.

1. This branch is taken away. It had the opportunity to bear fruit.
2. None is led blindfolded to judgment. Luke 13:7: "These three years I came seeking fruit and found none. Cut it down"

2. The fruit-bearing branch.

1. This fruit-bearing branch is not perfect. If so, it would not need pruning. Why the pruning?
  1. That the brambles such as the chaff, covetousness, luxury, and indolence might be cut away.

THREE STEPS TO HEAVEN1. FRUIT. "Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it..." Verse 2

1. That there may be a greater yield. Philippians 4:17 Paul said, "I desire fruit that may abound unto your account."

2. MORE FRUIT "That it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2

1. We (Christians) must be continually growing in the Lord.
2. We must get rid of (prune out) the brambles such as malice, guile, hypocrisis, envies, and all evil speaking. 1 Peter 2:2; "As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

3. MUCH FRUIT. John 15:8; "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."

1. Spiritually healthy, strong fruit-bearing Christians. Full crop.

THE QUALITIES OF THE FRUIT1. LOVE

1. A new commandment I give unto you; That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34
2. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another. John 13:35
  1. Before this they had been jealous of one another, irritable and cross. Matt. 20:24; "And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two..."  
Luke 22:24; "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest"

2. PEACE

1. My peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you..." John 14:27  
See also John 16:33.
2. This is that peace of which Paul said Christ is the author. 1 Cor. 15:33

3. Joy

1. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. John 15:11
2. Combined qualities make up the fruit of the spirit: Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Gal. 5:22f

LESSONS TO LEARN

1. That it is possible for a once faithful Christian to fall completely away.
2. THE FRUITLESS CHRISTIAN: Not ruled by love, anxious and fretful, gloomy and grumpy. Doing just as little as possible for Christ and his church.



