

John 15:1-8 Teaching Outline

- I. Jesus commands us to remain in Him so that we can be fruitful [1-7]
 - A. Metaphor of the true vine and gardener [1-4]
 - 1. Jesus speaks a metaphor of a vine and gardener and places the disciples in relation to this metaphor [1-3]
 - a. God's ways are likened to a gardener- the point is that the branches are pruned or discarded depending on fruitfulness [1-2]
 - 1) Jesus is the vine and the Father is the gardener [1]
 - a) I am the true vine – cf. Psa 80:-16; Isa 5:1-7; Jer. 2:21 [1a]
 - b) And my Father is the gardener [1b]
 - 2) Every branch has only 2 possibilities- be cut off for lack of fruit or be pruned so one can bear more fruit [2]
 - a) Neg. – He takes away every branch which does not bear fruit [2a]
 - b) Pos. – He prunes every fruitful branch so that it is more fruitful [2b-c]
 - (1) He cleanses/prunes every branch which bears fruit [2b]
 - (2) Purpose: so that it will bear even more fruit [2c]
 - b. And you are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you [3]
 - 2. Implications: Disciples are to follow up by abiding in the vine to bear more fruit [4]
 - a. Command: remain in me and I in you [4a-b]
 - 1) Remain in me [4a]
 - 2) And I in you [4b]
 - b. The reason we should abide is because we cannot bear fruit apart from Jesus [4c-f]
 - 1) Comparison with literal fruit and vine [4c-d]
 - a) The branch is not able to bear fruit by itself [4c]
 - b) Condition: if it does not remain in the vine [4d]
 - 2) Application of the comparison: in the same way – you are unable if you don't remain [4e-f]
 - a) In the same way – you are not able (to bear fruit) [4e]
 - b) Condition: if you do not remain in me [4f]
 - B. Metaphor of the vine and branches [5-7]
 - 1. Jesus is the vine and we are branches [5a-b]
 - a. I am the vine [5a]
 - b. You are the branches [5b]
 - 2. Therefore, be connected and be fruitful in answered prayer, or be disconnected and thrown out [5c-7]
 - a. Generally- if you abide in me you bear much fruit because without me you can do nothing [5c-d]
 - 1) The one remaining in Him bears much fruit [5c]
 - 2) Reason – apart from Him you are not able to do anything [5d]
 - b. Specifically- there are two possibilities for all branches [6-7]
 - 1) Negatively – those that don't abide will be thrown etc. [6]
 - a) Condition: If someone does not remain in me [6a]
 - b) Then: He will be discarded like a fruitless branch [6b-g]
 - (1) He will be cast out [6b]
 - (2) Just like a fruitless branch is discarded [6c-g]
 - (a) As a branch is thrown out [6c]
 - (b) And dried up [6d]
 - (c) And they gather them [6e]

(d) And they throw them into the fire [6f]

(e) And it is burned [6g]

2) Positively – if we remain in Jesus and His words in us, then we can ask whatever we desire and it will be done [7]

a) Condition: If you remain in me and my words remain in you [7a-b]

(1) If you remain in me [7a]

(2) And if my words remain in you (cf. 4b) [7b]

b) Then: Ask and it will be given to you [7c-d]

(1) Ask whatever you will [7c]

(2) And it will be reality to you [7d]

{note that the negative and positive are based on a condition or reciprocal abiding, us in the vine and the vine in us}

II. The reason I am saying this is because my Father is glorified [8]

A. My Father is glorified in this [8a]

B. Let me explain how my father is glorified [8b-c]

1. when we bear much fruit [8b]

2. and when we prove to be His disciples [8c]

{these two go hand in hand}