

### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Psalms 80 | Isaiah 5 | Luke 24:13-49

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 2.11.24

### SUMMARY

When Jesus says, “I am the true vine,” the reader might easily miss the deeper meaning of his words. Calling himself the *true vine* is not just a convenient metaphor Jesus thought of in the moment; it’s rich with Old Testament imagery that Jesus fulfills in his life, death, and resurrection. On the road to Emmaus after his resurrection, Jesus explains to his disciples that the Old Testament scriptures—all the laws, narratives, psalms, and prophecies—were “concerning himself” (Luke 24:27,44). What the Lord concealed in the Old Testament, he finally revealed in Jesus Christ in the New. For example, in Exodus 4:22, the Lord calls Israel “my firstborn son.” In other words, Israel was the shadow of what the Lord would reveal in Jesus, the true “firstborn” Son of God. In Psalm 80 and then again in Isaiah 5, Israel, the wayward son, is likened to a vineyard, but a vineyard that didn’t yield good fruit. Jesus, “the true vine,” did all the things Israel failed to do; he produced good fruit through his perfect righteousness and then through those he empowered. At a time when Jesus’ followers were unquestionably filled with doubt upon hearing of his imminent departure, he provided them assurance as he explained they are the branches of his true and faithful vine; they will be faithful because *he* is faithful. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus will give his followers the power to do his will and “bear much fruit.” However, along with this assurance, Jesus *commands* his disciples to be a part of the true Israel and “abide in me.” This is a command for Christians of all ages; however, our only hope to live out this command is by his strength. Christ simultaneously empowered and commanded us to be the fruit of the true vine, for apart from him, we “can do nothing” (John 15:5).

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 15:1-8.

How does this passage address the notion that a Christian can be saved but not show evidence of it? What part do good works (fruit) play in the life of a Christian?

Practically speaking, what might it look like for a Christian to abide in Christ? How does one abide in Christ and not turn their faith into a checklist to earn God’s favor?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.