

The Vine

Ezekiel 15



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The Vine Introduction

- For a few years I experimented with growing Concord grapes in our backyard.
- It was a complete failure.

The Vine Introduction

- I cut down the vine, let it dry out and eventually burned it.
- To be fair to the grapevine, it probably needed a bigger yard and more effort than I was able to give to it.

The Vine Introduction

- We shouldn't blame the vine in this case.
- The vine or vineyard is a theme that runs through much of the Bible.

The Vine Introduction

- Read **Isaiah 5:1-7**.

The Vine Introduction

- Read **Isaiah 5:1-7**.
- The problem with the nation was its fruit – or its lack of good fruit, to be precise.
- Ezekiel will elaborate on this theme.

The Vine Ezekiel 15

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- The downfall of the nation began in the days of Isaiah.
- It was completed in the days of Ezekiel.

The Vine Ezekiel 15

- A vine that bears no fruit – or bad fruit – is truly worthless.
- As Ezekiel points out, it's wood isn't really useful for anything except to burn.

The Vine Ezekiel 15

- God appointed Israel to be a blessing to the nations.
- Instead they were unfaithful and bore bad fruit.
- Then the vine was burned and its wood became even more useless than it was at the beginning.

The Vine Ezekiel 15

This situation is mentioned because of what actually happened to Jerusalem. The city was charred (partially burned) by the fire of the Babylonians in 597 BC, but survived. The coming fire of judgment in 587 BC will completely consume it (15:7).

*– Dr. Tewoldemedhin Habtu,
Ethiopian Bible Scholar*



The Vine Ezekiel 15

- Burning, destruction and exile – this was the fate of the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.
- Jesus will also elaborate on this theme.

The Vine John 15:1-17

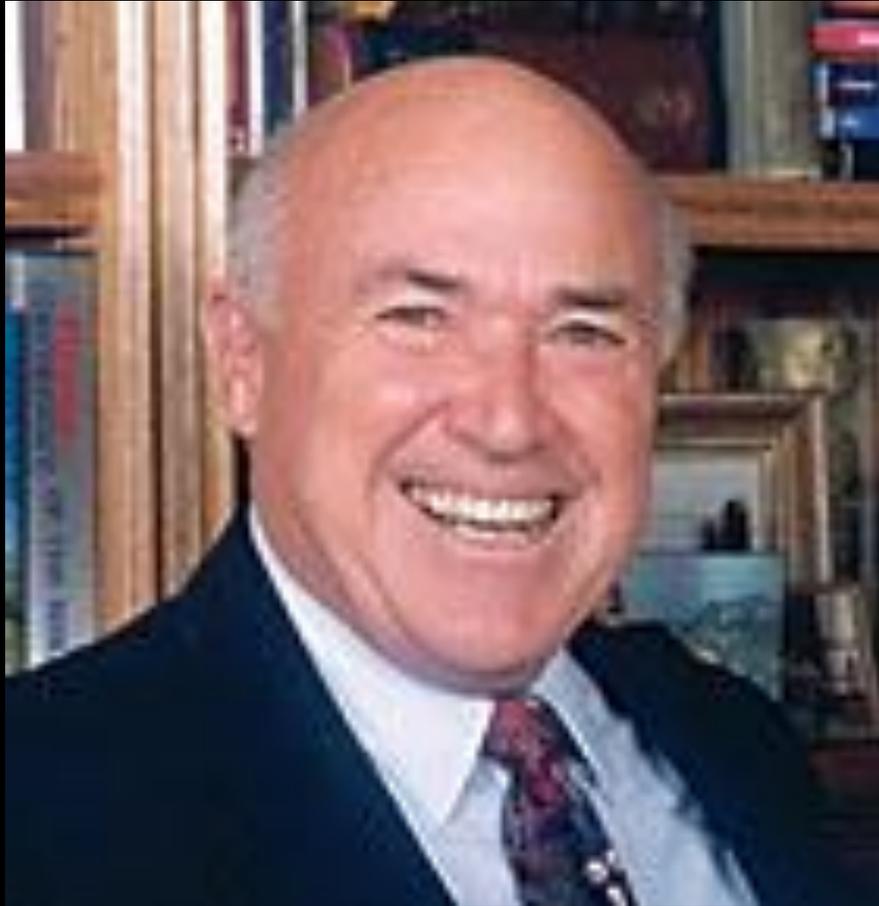
The Vine John 15:1-17

- God had every right to expect the nation of Israel to bear fruit according to his purposes – to be a blessing.
- Jesus says he has the same expectations of us.

The Vine John 15:1-17

- Jesus, however, declares himself to be the true vine.
- We are only branches who need to abide in Him.
- If we don't, we have no more ability to bear fruit than the people of Israel did in Old Testament times.

The Vine John 15:1-17



How important it is that we bear fruit and fulfill the purpose God has for our lives. God has designed us to bear more and more fruit. The only way we can do that is if we abide in Jesus.

*– Pastor Chuck Smith
(1927 – 2013)*

The Vine John 15:1-17

- If we abide in Him, then **love** and **joy** will be two of the outcomes of that abiding.
- Paul gives us even more outcomes.
- He also connects this fruitfulness with God's Holy Spirit, who connects us with Jesus – that is, He enables us to abide.

The Vine Galatians 5:16-25

The Vine Galatians 5:16-25

- Paul contrasts the **fruit of the Spirit** with the **works of the flesh**.
- Fruitful spiritual lives are the outcome of abiding in Jesus.
- Jesus also explains this fruitfulness in another way.

The Vine Matthew 13

- Jesus tells a parable in **Matthew 13:1-9**.
- He explains it in **13:18-23**.

The Vine Matthew 13

- Admittedly, this gets away from our vine illustration.
- But the idea of multiplication works the same way with grapes as it does with grain.
- One good vine can produce a lot of grapes.

The Vine Conclusions

The Vine Conclusions

- Israel was a vine that bore bad fruit.
- Jesus expects more from us.

The Vine Conclusions

- We can enjoy the privilege of being fruitful precisely where Israel failed.
- But we need to abide in Jesus.

The Vine Conclusions

- Fruitfulness is apparent in multiplication.
- This what happens when the seed of God's word is sown on good soil.
- It is bears fruit – 30, 60 or even 100 times – as Jesus said.

The Vine Conclusions

- Fruitfulness is also displayed in our character.
- Its fruit is pleasant and is there for others to enjoy.
- That is the **fruit of the Spirit** described by Paul.

The Vine Conclusions

Fruit is the manifestation of the essential nature of the tree, and our human lives are meant to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, which is, literally, the life of God in me, invading me, producing fruit for His glory.

*– Oswald Chambers (1874 – 1917),
YMCA Chaplain in Egypt*

