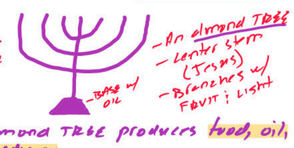
① VINE METAPHOR EXPLAINED

v.1 I am the Vine, you are the branches

- sometimes, as here, Jesus will explain His parables/metaphor
- Jesus repeats His teaching w/o the mention of the Gardener
- "You" disciples are the branches
- Remember, this metaphor is from the Garden of Eden to Rev. (Gen 1-3, Is 5, Ez 15, Matt 21, Jn 15, Rom 11, Gal 5 Rev. 22)
- All illustrate "branches" that BEARS FRUIT

★ Moses was instructed to put in the Tabernacle a "Golden Lampstand w/ 7 branches"
- Each branch shall have flowers, blossom, and give light
Ex. 25:31-40
- Just as Jesus has taught the disciples to bear fruit and give light
- Also, same as Rev. 1-3, 22:1-4
★ The inside of the Tabernacle was to reflect the Garden of Eden



- An almond TREE produces food, oil, and medicine...
- Food = word of God, oil = Holy Spirit
- medicine = healing (Ez 40-48, Rev. 22)
- The Almonds pretty pink flowers blossom symbolizing "awakening of spring"

- when Jeremiah was called by God to be a prophet He gave him a vision "Jermiah, what do you see? I said I see an almond Tree, and said, "you see well, I am ready to perform My word" Jer. 1:11-12
- Even Solomons construction of the Temple had Trees engraved on the walls and DOORS
- Return to the Garden mentality
- God's presence (Garden, Tab. Temple, New Temple)
- Abide and Bear FRUIT

★ The church is the New Garden of Eden (Matt. 21, Gal. 5, Rom. 11, Rev. 22)
- The church is God's presence on earth
- the church bears fruit, oil, medicine
- Like the mandate/commission to Adam... we are to tend to & keep/guard of the Garden... Gen. 2:15

v.5 He who abides in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for without Me, you can do nothing
- The disciples role is to abide
- hold to the Teachings no matter how difficult or Dangerous
- w/o the Vine (center stem of lampstand) you can bear NO FRUIT/no Light

v.6 IF anyone Does NOT abide in Me he is cast out as a branch (disciple) and is withered (dry, shriveled, rigid) and they gather them and throw them into the fire and they are burned
- This is the opposite result... those who do NOT Abide/Remain
- They become dry and unfruitful
- As Ezekiel said (Ez. 15) ; Jesus (Matt 13)
- Same imagery & they branches and unfruitful branches are Gathered and burned

② ABIDING = FRUITFULL/EFFECTIVE PRAYER

v.7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you
- this is the same conditional promise Jesus said in regards to being fruitful v.5
- Now it's in regards to prayer
★ All conditional to having His words ῥῆμα (rhema)
- things spoken, His words, teachings
★ we must hold to these teachings

v.7 You will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you
- having Jesus' words abiding/remaining in your mind and heart
★ That our mind and heart begin to be conformed to the mind and heart of Jesus
- we are becoming One in mind and HEART
- So too, our actions & words become One
★ All we ask for reflects what Jesus would ask
★ Reading and abiding in His Word is the only way to have effective Prayers

"If we ask anything in accordance to His will, He hears us. And if we know He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked for" 1 John 5:14-15
- NOT reading the word will result in prayers that are unbiblical

"You ask and do NOT receive because you ask amiss (incorrectly, inaccurately, wrong, κακως)" James 4:3

v.8 By this (us abiding & praying) My Father is glorified (exalted, praised)
- as we abide in Jesus' Teachings, God is honored

"All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father" John 5:23
- our Love for Jesus and fruitfulness in Him brings God Glory
- NOT abiding in Jesus & unfruitfulness robs God of Glory and results in threats of fiery judgment
★ A true disciple is abiding and bearing FRUIT...
- and is always becoming more fully a disciple of Jesus

③ ABIDING = Remains in His Love & His Joy

- Abiding in Jesus's Teachings =
1) Fruitfulness v. 1-5
2) Effective Prayer v. 7-8
3) His love & His Joy v. 9-11

v. 9 As the Father Loved Me, I also have loved you, abide in My Love
- No need to be concerned about the past tense... "Loved"
- In Greek, the tense means a complete & full Love
★ Jesus Loves us w/ the same magnitude of the Father's Love to Him
- Those who abide get a ton of Love and joy abiding in Him...
- The prophets spoke of the Messianic age bringing heavenly love and joy

"Sing O daughter of Zion, shout O Israel! Be glad and rejoice w/ all your heart. The Lord has taken away your judgments and cast out your enemy... the Lord your God is in your midst, the Mighty One will save. He will rejoice over you with gladness" Zeph. 3:14-17
- There is equal rejoicing of us over God and God over us
★ Context of Is. 65 and Rev. 7, 21
NO more weeping... God dwells w/ us
God will wipe away tears from your eyes

"The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion w/ singing, w/ everlasting joy. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" Is 35:10

"The Lord will comfort Zion... He will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody" Is. 51:3

v. 10 If you keep (guard) My commandments, you will abide in My love
- notice the strong similarity to the command to Adam & "Tend and keep/guard the garden" Gen. 2:15
- This is how we abide in His Love and joy = Keep His word!

v. 10 just as I have kept the Father's commandments and abide in His Love
- Jesus reflected the perfect example - the perfect "relationship"
★ We are to obey Jesus in the same way ("just as") Jesus obeyed the Father
- Remember, this allegiance to Jesus in NO way offends God (the Father)
- our loyalty and obedience to Jesus
  - honors the Father - John 5:23
  - Glorifies the Father - John 15:8

v. 11 These things I have spoken to you, so that (ἵνα) My joy may remain in you and your joy will be full
- Jesus' desire and intentions are for us to have His peace (14:27) His love (15:10) and His joy (15:11) NOW

④ This is My command: Love others as I loved

v. 12 This is My command, that you love others as I loved you
- Jesus boils His commands down to one:
Love others as I loved you
- This is a higher calling than the Torah (under Moses) "love your neighbor as yourself" Lev. 19:18
- Also, this command does NOT stand by itself...
- Jesus said we must love God w/ all our heart, soul, mind, strength Matt 22:37
★ AND only by loving Jesus can we love others as Jesus did John 15:9
- Loving others as Jesus did is the "New Commandment"

"A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you, you also love one another. All will know you are My disciples, if you have love one for another" John 13:34-35

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus laid down His life for us. So we ought to lay down our life for one another" 1 Jn 3:16

v. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends
- This statement refers to Jesus' death on behalf of His friends
★ Just as Jesus has been teaching to love others as I loved you v. 12
- This is the example Jesus sets
- we too should follow this Love example set by Jesus
- we can be assured that v. 13 is referring to Jesus dying for us by:
- Love others as I loved you, v. 12
- You are my friends, v. 14
★ Context... v. 13 is in the middle

v. 14 You are My friends... if you do whatever I command you
- One can't call themselves a friend of God w/o Obeying Jesus
- Obeying Jesus = friends status
- only Abraham (Is. 41:8) and Moses (Ex 33:11) were called "friends of God"
★ These were hints and foreshadows
- Now, all believers who obey Jesus are friends w/ God
- There is a big difference between a servant and a friend!

v. 15 No longer do I call you servants - although the metaphor always applies... (Matt 10:24)
- we are NOT above our Master

v. 15 for a servant does not know what His Master is doing
- servants are not privy or aware of the owners plans & purposes
★ They are to simply do what they are told (no personal relationship)

v. 15 But I have called you friends for all things I have heard from My Father, I have made known to you
- friends have special priviledges
- friends are informed what the other is thinking and doing
★ In times past, God's people did not know fully what God had planned or what He was doing

⑤ CHOSEN & APPOINTED TO BEAR FRUIT

v. 16 You did not choose Me
- Jesus went against common culture

"It was common in first century Palestine for disciples to attach themselves to a particular Rabbi, NOT vice versa" Mishna 'Abot 1:6
- As we know, Jesus went and invited His disciples to "follow Him"

"Jesus went to Galilee and found Philip and said him, "Follow Me" John 1:43

"Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi and said to him, "Follow Me". So he left all and followed Him" Luke 5:27
- NOT all invited actually followed

Jesus spoke to the rich young ruler: "Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven, and come, Follow Me. BUT when he heard this he became very sorrowful for he was very rich." Luke 18:22

"Jesus said, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no where to lay His head, Then He turned to another and said "Follow Me", but he said, "Let me first go bury my father" Luke 9:59
- Again, Jesus' method of asking, inviting, initiating was uncommon because some said NO... which would be embarassing/insulting TO a Rabbi
- Jesus' invitation was to all and anyone...
This was unprecedented

"If anyone wills/desires (θελω) to come To me, let him deny himself, pick up his cross and follow Me" Luke 9:23
★ Even in Jesus inviting/chosing, scripture shows man's response choice... some yes, some NO
- Jesus is making the point here that He chose and initiated the relationship
★ Jesus chosing them does NOT negate their free will do say yes (like some did) OR NO (As others did)
- Now, we see why Jesus chose to have disciples:

v. 16 I chose you and appointed you so that (ἵνα) you bear fruit and that your fruit would remain
- God is inviting all to become part of the New Garden of Eden
- that we would abide in the TRUE vine and bear long lasting fruit!
★ one TREE of Life - Gen 1, the first chapter of the entire Bible
★ has turned into many Trees of Life Rev. 22, the very last ch. in the Bible

ONE BEAUTIFUL STORY!

v. 16 Whatever you ask in My name He will give you
- our relationship, abiding, and fruitfulness comes from prayer alone

v. 17 These things I command you so that (ἵνα) you love one another
- Interesting that He says "These "things" plural
- Then Gives one command (singular)
★ As if all His Teachings = Love on another
- Even in a selfish, hate filled world
- Transition to v. 18 - 16:4
★ Be a TREE of Life... by ♡