

May 30 - John 15:1-17 "The Organic Growth of the Jesus Follower"

Read Isaiah 5:1-7

1. Who does the vine represent? What was God looking for from the vine? And what was God's response?

Read John 15:1-17

2. Jesus calls himself the true vine. Given your reflection on Isaiah 5 what is Jesus saying about himself?
3. What is Jesus saying about the disciples by calling them the branches?
4. Jesus calls his father the vinedresser. The vinedresser's sole job was to bring out the fruitfulness of the vine. The vinedresser would lift up (sometimes translated take away) the branches that aren't producing fruit, and prune the branches that are producing fruit so that they will produce even more fruit. What are some of the ways that the father lifts us up, and prunes us? (Note: The Father like any expert vinedresser will never take away anything that would have damaged us to keep and benefited us to loose)
5. Our growth is not passive but is given to us in a command. Abide. It is a continual command – go on abiding. It is a command given to a group of people – we need one another to abide. What do we learn about abiding from this passage? What does it invite from us practically?
6. Jesus leaves his disciples with a glorious promise. I chose you to bear fruit – so whatever you ask the father in my name he will give it to you. Why is it important to hear this promise in the context of the discussion around fruitfulness? What does it invite you to ask the Father for?