



Service Devotional Guide

June 14, 2020

Start by praying and asking God to meet you in this passage, the sermon, and the reading and prayers. Then read the following passage several times.

John 15: 1-11

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ ‘As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Questions to Ponder

1. How do you understand the difference between happiness and joy? Is it a meaningful difference to you?
2. How do you understand 'remaining in the vine'?
3. Have you ever experienced God's pruning? What did that look like in your life? Have you come to experience more 'fruit' as a result of it?
4. Jesus seems to link obedience clearly with joy in verses 10-11. How did joy come from the obedience he modelled in his own life? Have you experienced joy in obedience to God?
5. What might be one thing you could do this week to draw closer to the Vine that is Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Paul's Bloor Street

227 Bloor Street East, Toronto ON, M4W 1C8

416-961-8116 | stpaulsbloor.org

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