

“Tales from a Vineyard: Making Love in the Vineyard—An Old Song”

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» A Love Song in the Vineyard

- Song of Solomon 1&8/Isaiah 5:1-7

» A Parable about the Vineyard

- Matthew 21:33-43/John 15

» This may be the most important truth you have yet to learn:

- John 15:1-5, 8, 16
- Jesus talks about “fruit” seven times.
- What kind of fruit?
 - Craig Keener: “In Palestine, the grapes ripen in late summer as the shoots stop growing and the bark changes from green to darker shortly before the vintage of August or September. Yet John writes figuratively; of what sort of fruit does the passage speak? . . . [T]he immediate context . . . suggests _____ fruit.” (*The Gospel of John: A Commentary* 2:997)
 - Galatians 5:22-23—“But the fruit of the _____ is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”
 - *Desire of Ages*: “The life of Christ in you produces the same _____ as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ.”(677)
 - *Acts of the Apostles*: “The sap of the vine, ascending from the root, is diffused to the branches, sustaining growth and producing blossoms and fruit. So the life-giving power of the _____ , proceeding from the Saviour, pervades the soul, renews the motives and affections, and brings even the thoughts into obedience to the will of God, enabling the receiver to bear the precious fruit of holy deeds.” (284)
- But what about pruning (John 15:2)?
 - Hebrews 5:8—“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He _____ .”
 - 2 Corinthians 12:8-10—“Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ . . . That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am _____ , then I am strong.”
 - Philippians 3:10—“I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His _____ , becoming like Him in His death.”
 - Hebrews 12:10-11—“Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness [“Become like Me”]. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces the _____ of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained [pruned] by it.”
 - 2 Timothy 3:12—“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus [connected to the Vine] will be _____ [pruned].”
 - Mark 10:30—Jesus promises all who give up all to follow Him will be rewarded a hundred times as much in this life with “_____.”
 - The point: we won’t get through this life without being _____ .

- *Desire of Ages*: “The pruning will cause pain, but it is the Father who applies the knife. He works with no wanton hand or indifferent heart. [1] There are branches trailing upon the ground; these must be cut loose from the _____ supports to which their tendrils are fastening. They are to reach heavenward, and find their support in God. [2] The excessive foliage that draws away the life current [sap] from the _____ must be pruned off. [3] The overgrowth must be cut out, to give room for the healing beams of the Sun of Righteousness. The husbandman prunes away the _____ growth, that the fruit may be richer and more abundant.” (677)
- Andrew Murray: “Christian, pray for grace to see in every trouble, small or great, the Father’s finger pointing to Jesus, and saying, Abide in Him! . . . A believer may pass through much affliction and yet secure but little blessing from it all. Abiding in Christ is the secret of securing all that the Father _____ the chastisement to bring us.” (*Abiding in Christ* 122-123)
- “I will put my _____ in Him.” (Hebrews 2:13)
- “Prune me, dear Father, that there may be more fruit . . . in my life . . . for Your glory.”

Answer Key: moral, Spirit, fruits, Holy Spirit, suffered, weak, sufferings, fruit, persecuted, persecutions, pruned, earthly, fruit, harmful, meant, trust



YOU GOTTA HAVE FRUIT!