

## SERMON NOTES

Saturday/Sunday, April 27/28, 2024 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “Vine, Branch, and Fruit”    TEXT: John 15:1-8

INTRO. Age 16, summer painter, 4 of us > big 2 ½ story brick house. One side covered by ivy. Other young guy moving ladder late in day. Next morning whole section of ivy wilted. He had accidentally broken a branch from the main vine. The Boss and the owners were not happy!

TEXT: Jesus instructs us: to be fruitful disciples we must remain connected to him. Only in him do we receive the Father’s care, the Holy Spirit’s gifts, and fruitfulness that counts for something in the Kingdom.

### I. “APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING”

PIX: Healthy vine → vibrant, robust, green

A. Spiritually healthy Christians:

1. Worship
2. Confess
3. Pray
4. Serve
5. Love others
6. Grow

PIX: Broken stem → disconnected, starved

B. Those who drift away:

1. Soul slowly starves
2. Less Christ-like, more worldly
3. Wilting

PIX: Dead branch → the final result – still looks like a grape vine, but no life, no fruit.

C. Appear “good” but no Jesus coming into them, no Jesus going out.

1. “Out-put without in-put makes Kaput!”
2. Jesus gives LIFE.

### II. PRUNING IS PAINFUL

ILLUST. Grandpa Mossner/Dad’s Concord vines → No prune, no fruit.

A. You WILL get pruned (and you won’t like it).

1. “God indeed tempts no one...” (M. Luther)
2. God does allow trial: to strengthen, to bond, move forward in faith

B. It’s not “fun” but we learn to trust, give thanks for deliverance, and to sympathize with others in their trials.

C. We learn to “LEAN INTO JESUS”

### III. “THE FATHER’S GLORY...YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT”

PIX: The Fruitful Vine → Dad’s ConCORDS were Full of Fruit!

A. Hold onto Jesus for Dear Life.

1. Seek HIS GIFTS: Word, Baptism, Absolution, Holy Communion
2. Through Him receive the Holy Spirit and His Gifts.

B. Don’t just “BE GOOD” but “DO GOOD” for Jesus’ sake.

CLOSE: Grapes → Wine → Scripture’s picture of JOY = Spiritual joy with real Substance, real Meaning, real LOVE.