

A Fruitful Branch
John 15:1-5
May 10, 2026

We all hunger for the approval of our parents.

You can never fully repay your mom for raising you.

If only I could produce some real fruit for God then I could rest in Him.

Where is the Fruitful Branch?

We are in the vine. United to Jesus. His life flows through our veins.

Why did Jesus say, *true* vine? (Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:8-13)

Israel, as a people, are pictured as a failed vine planted by the Father.

Jesus came to be the *true* vine bearing fruit for the Father.

What is the Goal of the Fruitful Vine?

To bear fruit. But what, specifically, is this fruit?

It is whatever the life of Christ produces through the believer who lives in close fellowship with Him.

Fruit is Christlike character, Christlike conduct, and Christlike converts.

To fail to produce fruit is to be a dead branch.

What is pruning? Why does it work?

How Does the Fruitful Branch Produce Fruit?

We must abide in the vine. What does that mean?

What are you getting your mother for Mother's Day?

Am I a mountain man?

What was the original purpose of our creation/existence?

What Does it Mean to Abide in Christ?

Don't focus on producing fruit; focus on Jesus.

Why my gym membership didn't work.

Can you improve **your union** with God?

Can you improve **your communion** with God?

Abide with Jesus, and He will pour His life into you, so that you can bear fruit.

Meditation

In Scripture Jesus says, I'm now going to tell you what My heart is. He says, "I am gentle and lowly in heart." There are many other true words that could have been said there, but what He chose to say in Matthew 11 is that He is gentle and lowly. In other words, He is gentle, He's the most tender, the most non-manipulative, the most non-abrasive. He doesn't handle us roughly. He doesn't take us by the shoulders and shake us.

He is lowly. That's the same Greek word elsewhere translated in the New Testament as humble. You might think, what does Jesus have to be humble about? Well, it's His own way of saying, "I am the most accessible Person in the universe." Jesus is the Revelation 1 divine and risen Son of God—He is the one who has a double-edged sword coming out of His mouth, and His body and face are shining so brightly that John falls down at His feet. That Christ is most deeply gentle and lowly.

He's lowly, He's accessible. You don't have to go through security to get to Him. He doesn't say, "Take a ticket and get in line." He doesn't put you on hold. He is supremely accessible. There's no minimum bar you need to get over to get to Him. All you have to do, actually, is collapse in order to get into the heart of Christ. You have to humble yourself enough—something that most of us have a very difficult time doing—to fall into His arms because He is lowly. So, it is unspeakably precious that Christ's deepest heart—who He is most deeply, what pours out of Him most naturally—is gentleness and lowliness.

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