

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 15: 1-8

1. And suddenly Jesus saith unto them, and for those not paying attention that is the disciples, I am the true vine, verily, and my Father is the husbandman. Or person. Actually persons, but that will come much later. And lo! The disciples did pay attention though some were more intent on the question of vintage rather than grape. And the amount.
2. And He continueth, Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, or even little buds, he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. And that can be messy. And James did nod sagely, for he owned a vineyard and did know something about pruning. And some knew about purging and were downcast.
3. And Jesus looketh at them and proclaimeth, Now ye are clean – although clearly not all of you (for it was a warm afternoon) - through the word which I have spoken unto you. I have lopped off your straggly bits. Don't look down – look at me. Now pay attention, for I am about to use an interrelational and causal phrase seven times – and that is a magic number.
4. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. No, Peter. That's not a line from an hymn that hasn't been written yet. And Nathanael did wonder about taking cuttings and using potting compost, but did keep silence and pondered where his dibber was.
5. I am the vine, declareth Jesus, and ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit – grapes, that is, not raspberries: for without me ye can do nothing. For my sap is rising and it bringeth life. Oh yes.
6. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned, or they are whittled into spoons and sold in the market place.
7. And He saith, If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you, even unto making many forms of cutlery and basins for sacred and secular useage.
8. And lifting His eyes unto heaven, in order to fulfil this style of narrative, He proclaimeth, Herein is my Father super-glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. And Peter did wonder at this, for he thought they were disciples already.