

Abide in the Vine – (the CULTURE of grapes)

Over 125 plants in the Bible

48 times talked about farmers in the Bible

A farm always includes crops, A Ranch is a large farm that often includes livestock. Ave size of farm in USA is 440 acres

From 2018 the number of farms in USA has dwindled from over 2 million farms to 12,000 less in 2022.

The Agricultural process in the Bible included, products, workers, operations, practices and seasons.

Adam, Noah, Ruth, Boaz, Elisha, Uzziah,

A Vineyard is a plantation that grows grapes and sells to a CELLAR or winery who makes grape juice and wines.

Moses promised a land...Deut 8:7-8 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey;

I heard it through the grapevine...Cal Raisins - 1986

A Walk in the Clouds is a 1995 American romantic drama film with Keanu Reeves.

Along the way of his life journey, he meets a beautiful young woman who is heading home from college to her family vineyard that dates back for several generations and help with the grape harvest in Nappa Valley. Her drunk father drops a lantern that ignites the vineyard and destroys it. Paul remembers one plant that may still have its roots intact, races off to retrieve it, and carries it to the family. The replanting is the hope of future generations.

“The life and the hope is in the roots of the vine”

Vinedresser, gardener, Husbandry is the manager, owner, laborer (GOD)

John 15 - **9 times he says to remain**. We just remain and bear fruit.

“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.

To remain is to stay connected, continue, don’t move, stay put,

Hang tight, occupy, endure, persist, cling, dwell, function in your role.

“forsake not the assembling of yourselves together”

Genesis 9:20, Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard.

In 1657BC in Ararat Turkey, or...

Indian Creek Village, Ringwood west of enid, Plain View Winery in Lahoma

Plymouth Valley Cellars in Fairview,

Your vineyard is your life –

Your family, your job, your friends, neighbors

Your fruit is your behavior and character – love or anger, joy or depression, peace or anxiety, patience or selfish impulse...

Stages of the fruit growth cycle:

Vines grown from seeds may take two to seven years to produce grapes

(1) bloom /budburst,- the end of dormancy

(2) flower cluster initiation,

(3) flowering, (4) fruit set,

(5) berry development, (6) harvest,

(7) back to dormancy. - the oldest grapevine is 400 yrs old

The passing of each event announces the beginning of a new stage in the vineyard management cycle.

Stages of the vineyard growth cycle:

1. PLANTING

2. PRUNING

2. GRAFTING

3. BEARING FRUIT

4. CUT OFF / separate (backslide, apostacy, fall away,

FIRST - - Cultivate, plant

Soil? Pet moss, compost? Clay, hard dry?

**Hosea – Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy;
break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till
he come and rain righteousness upon you.**

Gen 2:8 - The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed

Gen 4:12 – (Cain) When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.”

Gen 9:20 - Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard.

Gen 26:12 - Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the Lord blessed him,

Gen 47:23 - Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have today bought you and your land for Pharaoh; now, here is seed for you, and you may sow the land.

Lev 25

3 For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. 4 But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.

Nurture - Grow – Mature

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the nurture (training) and instruction of the Lord.

Eph 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

We are naturally hungry for sustenance

1 Peter 2:2 - Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

Heb 5:14 - Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Dress / cut/ prune

Some are being corrected by God and they hear a demonic voice that says they have been cut off. Discern the difference, don't get offended by God's husbandry

Heb 12:6 - because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

Produce maximum yield without breaking the branches with too many clusters for them to bear,

Produce better quality wine, with more highly concentrated and flavorful grapes.

Evangelism focus is outward on others (the lost)

Discipleship focus inward (Christians)

Jews who reject Christ are cut off, while gentiles who accept Him are **"grafted in"**

Abide – stay close

James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Heb 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ps 107:4 - They wandered in the wilderness in a desert region;

They did not find a way

Josh 5:6 - For the sons of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness,

Duet 2:3 - 'You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north,

Press

Philippians 3:14

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

As a leader, people will push you. Followers push your buttons

As a leader, to help followers, you push them

2 cor 4:8,9

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Harvest

Pray to the Lord of the Harvest...

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few

Reap from the process and seasons of growth. Drink it in!

Jeremiah 17:8

They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Hosea compares plant growth to spiritual growth. in Hosea 14:5-7, we read:

I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. People will dwell again in his shade;

they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like the vine—

Israel's fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.

CUT OFF from the vine?

Jews who reject, Judas, those who take the mark of the beast...

Matt 7:17 - Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

Oak, cedars – strength

Flowers – beauty

Herbs and spices - Bitterness and choices

Vegetables - Sustenance

Apple, grapes – Pleasure or sin?

Sower and seed - spiritual growth, God is the Sower, you are the seed

1. fell on path - birds ate it, Satan (confused, lies, flesh doesn't feel it?)
2. rocky soil – hard times people doubt or blame God, give up
3. thorn bushes – choked by riches, material, popularity, acceptance
4. good soil – water, sunlight, weeds pulled,

Matt 13

a grape vine was quite likely within sight when He first spoke these words. In winter the branches lose their leaves and the vine has to be pruned if it is to flourish again and bear fruit well. As the cut-off branches are fruitless, useless and dead away from the parent plant, so are Christians who are not abiding in Jesus Christ and thus sharing in His life.

Seasons of our life? - Wait for fruit

Some things have to die (loss) naturally

Bible talks about apple, dates, pomegranate, grapes, olives,

Learn from plants? 19 page study...

HE put man and woman in a GARDEN!