

# True Vine 6: Chosen to Flourish

We've been looking at John 15:1-8

- God is the Gardener: Invested in our flourishing
- Jesus is the True Vine
  - **Connected. Empowered.**
- We are the Branches.
  - Pure and Equiped

Then we looked at verses 9-12

- Commanded to Love
  - Invitation to intimacy. Declaration of Identity. Foundation of our impact.
- Joy Completed
  - Completes our joy and completes us. Motivates us. Sustains us.

<sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.** Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

None of this is a mistake. None of this is chance. Nothing is random!

- You being here. In Australia. In Melbourne. You being you.
  - Nothing is random. Nothing is meaningless. **This is all a choice.**

**God's choice!** God has chosen us and appointed us Christians to be fruitful

- The purpose of my life. God's purpose for my life is to flourish!
- Flourishing is what was always intended. Being connected to the Vine.
  - Remaining in him by **obeying** his command to **love each other** takes me all the way back from the exile of rebellion to the intimacy of the garden.

Chosen and appointed to bear fruit. Fruit that remains.

- To me it sounds a lot like Go and Make disciples
- The concepts are similar: how does fruit remain but by **bearing it own fruit.**
  - Making disciples leads to making disciple making disciples
  - Making disciples leads to fruit for eternity.

- If you think about it the garden mandate is the Kingdom's commission.
  - Both have been given by God to those he has chosen.
    - You're not Adam and Eve. You're something better.  
Chosen to bring the new garden/the kingdom to earth.

### **Conclusion**

#### Chosen not random.

- You are wanted, desired, important.
- Everyone is needed in ENM

#### Friends not servants.

- Friends serve with a different motivation: love, joy, flourishing.
- Friends serve with a different attitude expressed.
- Friends serve without thought of reward - the service is reward enough

#### Included not excluded.

- You have been chosen to know what Jesus is doing. To know what the Father is doing.
  - He's renewing the garden. It's better than before. It has a king in it now and it's a kingdom that is growing every day.
  - The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.
    - Small. Insignificant. But then a miracle takes place.