



Productive Living

John 15:1-11

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

In some of the last words that Jesus uttered before He went to the cross, He instructed His followers on the essentials of life with Him. In this passage, Jesus told them and all Christ-followers to bear fruit and be productive in their life and service to Him.

Everyone wants to have a life that have live a life that counts, life that matters, and a life that fulfilling. But we have questions: How can you find your best life? How can you make a difference? How do you become a productive follower of Christ?

In this passage, Jesus give us **four rudiments** of a productive life:

I. You become productive with **Jesus**

(verses 1, 4)

1. Have personal faith in Jesus

“Remain in Me”

2. Have a personal relationship with Jesus

“and I will remain in you”

II. You become productive by God’s **pruning**

(verses 2-3, 8)

1. Hard times can bring spiritual maturity

“prunes ... more fruitful”

2. Hard times can demonstrate God’s glory

“to my Father’s glory”

III. You become productive by God’s **expectations**

(verses 2, 5-6)

1. God expects you to be productive

“bear much fruit”

2. God punishes if you are unbelieving

“cast into the fire”

IV. You become productive by God’s **rewards**

(verses 7, 11)

1. Fruitful living blesses your life

“ask whatever you wish”

2. Fruitful living gives great joy

“your joy may be complete”

Your Response:

1. Have you placed faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Do you have a personal relationship with Christ? Are you truly connected to the *“true vine?”*
2. What is being produced in your life right now? What are you living for? What needs to change?
3. Can you accept God’s pruning process when it happens? Can you see God’s pruning process as His way of producing more fruit?
4. What kind of fruit are you bearing? What fruit should you be producing that you are not producing now? What do you need to do if you are going to bear more fruit?
5. In verse 11, Jesus promises joy to the disciples who bear fruit. Have you ever experienced the full joy of bearing fruit? Why or why not? What needs to change for you to become a productive Christian?

Resources:

The Gospel of John by William Hendriksen
The Gospel of John by R.C.H. Lenski
Abiding in Christ by Andrew Murray
Abiding in Christ by J. I. Packer, Carolyn Nystrom
Secrets of the True Vine by Bruce Wilkinson