THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

THAT YOU MIGHT BELIEVE...
LIFE IN THE VINEYARD
Five main characters

1. Father = Vinedresser
2. Son = True Vine
3. Holy Spirit = Helper/Spirit of Truth
4. Believers = Branches
5. Unbelievers = Fruitless Branches/The World
Embrace the Father’s pruning by abiding in Christ that your joy may be full.
As the Vinedresser, He does two things:

1. Removes fruitless branches.
2. Prunes fruitful branches.
Can a true believer be lost?

Jesus labors intensely throughout the Gospels that one of His cannot be lost.

Jn. 6:37,39
Jn. 10:30
Jn. 6:66-67 & v.64
Can a true believer be lost?

There are disciples and true disciples. There are those who are in Him and those who are truly in Him.

Key idea is tied to true belief or abiding in Jesus and bearing fruit. (Jn. 15:4,8)
Can a true believer be lost?

The proof is in the lack of fruit, producing fruit is not the root of whether they are a true believer, but its absence.
Can a true believer be lost?

Matt. 7:15-21

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.
Can a true believer be lost?

18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
The 2nd role of the Vinedresser:

He prunes every branch that does bear fruit. Happens in two ways:

1. Prunes fruitful branches.
2. Has cleaned fruitful branches.
The 2nd role of the Vinedresser:

The word “clean” is related to the word “prunes”, it is the same root word.

We are already clean.
The 2nd role of the Vinedresser:

Like justification to sanctification.

We are saved to being saved.
The 2nd role of the Vinedresser:

Jn. 13:10
The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean. But not everyone of you.

Jn. 13:11
For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”
The 2nd role of the Vinedresser:

So what’s the point in both John 13 and John 15 of saying that the disciples are already clean? Already “completely” clean (13:10). Already pruned, and made suitable. Yet they are to be washed and to be pruned. And if they reject being washed and pruned, they have no portion in Jesus, no union with Christ. Your ready acceptance of being washed and pruned is the sign that you are already washed and pruned.

John Piper
The 2\textsuperscript{nd} role of the Vinedresser:

v.3 – Already you are clean because of the \textbf{word} I have \textbf{spoken} to you.

v.11 – These things I have \textbf{spoken} to you.

v.22 – If I had not come and \textbf{spoken} to them.

v.24 – All that I have \textbf{heard} from my Father I have \textbf{made known} to you.

v.26 – Spirit of \textbf{Truth}.
The 2nd role of the Vinedresser:

That “word” which was spoken, is the entirety of the Gospel.

He has already cleansed us.

The purpose of that cleansing is so that He can continue that work, cleansing or pruning (v.2)
Ways we are pruned:

His word is the primary way He prunes us.

Ps. 1:1-2

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
Ways we are pruned:

His word is the primary way He prunes us.

Ps. 119:11
I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
Ways we are pruned:

His word is the primary way He prunes us.

Heb. 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
Ways we are pruned:

He also uses life, circumstances and people, to prune us.

v.19

If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.
Ways we are pruned:

Focus Point:

Embrace the Father’s pruning by abiding in Christ that your joy may be full.
As the True Vine, He is the source of the fruit produced.

The branches feed off the vine; they receive their nutrients from it.

The fruit’s genetic makeup comes from the vine.
All fruit bearing is contingent upon abiding in the vine.

We can do nothing without abiding in Him.

Every spiritual aspect of our lives, every bit of fruit we bear comes from abiding in Him.
What does it mean to abide in Him?

v.11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.

One of the results of pruning is joy, not our joy, but His joy!
What does it mean to abide in Him?

One of the ideas of the word abide is “rest”.

We can rest in the Savior, knowing that what is happening is for our good and His glory. (v.8)
He is sent by, proceeds from the Father.

He is called:

The Helper.

The Spirit of Truth.
The Holy Spirit as the Helper.

Jn. 14:15-27
Jn. 16:6-7
Lk. 12:11-12

And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.
Besides **joy**, what does the other fruit look like?

**Jn.15:10 & 12**

*If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love...*

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*
Besides joy, what does the other fruit look like?

The type of love Jesus is referring to is the same type of love with which He loved us.

vv.13,14

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. "14 You are my friends..."
We are not to be **passive** in our asking for help to love in this way.

v.17

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.
Embrace the Father’s pruning by abiding in Christ that your joy may be full.