



HE IS THE VINE • Part 2

The Fruit of Authenticity

Matthew 7:15-20

John 15:5

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.”

FRUIT INDICATES THE TREE

Matthew 7:15-20

¹⁵“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶**By their fruit you will recognize them.** Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut

down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, **by their fruit you will recognize them.**

Fruit Cannot Be Faked.

The Fruit I Bear Reveals the Root of My Heart.

JESUS CALLS US TO AUTHENTICITY

Matthew 6:1

¹“Be careful not to practice your righteousness **in front of others to be seen by them.** If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:5

⁵“And when you pray, **do not be like the hypocrites,** for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners **to be seen by others.**”

Matthew 6:16

¹⁶“When you fast, do not look somber **as the hypocrites** do, for they disfigure their faces **to show others** they are fasting.”

Matthew 7:21

²¹“**Not everyone who says** to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only the one who does** the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 7:24

²⁴“Therefore everyone who **hears these words of mine and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Jesus Calls Us to Something More than Appearances.

He Calls Us to an Authentic Life that Rooted in Transformation of the Heart.

AUTHENTICITY IS FOUND IN CHRIST

Matthew 11:29-30

²⁹Take my yoke upon you and **learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,** and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For **my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**”

“Until you have given up your self to Him you will not have a real self The very first step is to try to forget about the self altogether. Your real, new self will not come as long as you are looking for it. It will come when you are looking for Him Christ will indeed give you a real personality.” – C. S. Lewis

In Christ, however, we become our true selves. God opens our eyes to our sins, to the self-deception, to the things in our lives that are not of him. Then he transforms us, conforming us to the only perfect human being who ever lived. In Christ, we stop operating according to the constraints of social expectations, personal insecurities, and lies. Rather than live in ways that are subhuman, we finally live in a manner worthy of God’s vision for humanity.

– Sharon Hodde Miller (2011.09 CT hermeneutics)

Lose Your Life in Jesus in Order to Find Your True Self.

Matthew 10:39

³⁹Whoever finds their life will lose it, and **whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.**