

QUICK & EASY MINI-LESSON

Pruned, Not Punished

John 15:1-5 · 6 minute read

The branch that bears fruit is the one that gets cut. Learning to tell pruning from punishment.

Jesus says something uncomfortable: the branch already bearing fruit is the one the Father prunes. Loss, in the vineyard, is not always correction. Sometimes it is investment.

A vinedresser cuts back healthy growth because a vine that spends itself everywhere fruits nowhere. The cut is aimed at concentration, not punishment.

This reframes a hard fall. If something good was taken out of your hands this year, it is worth asking whether God was narrowing you toward fruit rather than disciplining you for failure.

And the instruction that follows is not "try harder." It is "abide." The branch's only job is to stay attached.

Reflect

- What has been cut back in your life this year?

- Have you read that cut as punishment? What if it was pruning?

- What does "abide" look like on an ordinary Tuesday for you?

Pray

Father, You are a careful gardener. Where You have cut, help me trust Your aim, and keep me attached to the Vine. Amen.

Notes