

John 15:1-8 Quiz

In our scripture lesson today, Jesus is talking about being attached or detached. He uses a different word — "abide" or "abiding" — meaning accept or accepting.

Jesus says: "I am the true vine, and God is the vine-grower. God _____ every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit. You gardeners can appreciate that metaphor. You know that if you want your plants to produce lots of fruit, you have to spend some time with pruning shears in hand. You have to cut off dead branches. You have to cut off suckers. Pruning might seem to be counter-productive. You waited all winter for the plant to grow, and now that it is growing you start cutting branches and throwing them away. But pruning isn't counter-productive. Pruning is just the opposite. If you do the pruning right, your plants will _____ much more than they would otherwise because their energy isn't being sapped by limbs that bear no fruit.

Jesus says that God wields pruning shears. God does two kinds of pruning. First, God "removes every branch that bears no fruit". Second, "Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit." Jesus is saying that we can all expect to feel God's sharp pruning knife. _____ is left out. But the reason is different. God prunes the unproductive branch to throw it away. God prunes the productive branch to make it even more productive.

Remember that when you are trying to do the right thing and life keeps kicking you in the shins. Jesus doesn't _____ that the good branch doesn't feel the cut of the knife just that the cutting is in the hands of God and that it is for the purpose of making us better, not worse.

With Christ's help, ordinary people accomplish extraordinary things. Jesus says that we are not any good detached.

As we abide in Jesus — and bear much fruit — and become his disciples, we glorify God. And we bless the people around us. And we change the world.

- A. promise
- B. nobody

- C. removes
- D. produce