

Ezekiel 15:1–8 — The Vine Without Fruit

1. The Worthless Vine (Ezekiel 15:1-2)

“And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, how is the wood of the vine better than any other wood?’” (Ezekiel 15:1-2, NKJV)

God asks Ezekiel a simple but powerful question:
What good is a vine if it does not bear fruit?

Throughout Scripture, God often uses the image of a vine to describe His people. In Isaiah chapter 5, He pictures Israel as His vineyard—prepared, protected, and nurtured. He expected fruit, but instead He found wild, bitter grapes. Jesus later uses the same imagery in John chapter 15: *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser... By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit.”*

A grapevine has only one real purpose: to bear fruit. It cannot be used for building or crafting. Its wood has no strength. Its value comes from its fruitfulness.

So God asks: If My people do not bear fruit, what purpose are they fulfilling?

2. A Vine Cannot Be Used for Anything Else (Ezekiel 15:3-5)

“Is wood taken from it to make any object? Or can men make a peg from it to hang any vessel on it?” (Ezekiel 15:3, NKJV)

The wood of a grapevine is too soft, too weak, too twisted, too brittle for any meaningful work. You cannot make furniture from it. You cannot build a house with it. You cannot even make a simple peg from it.

It is useful for one thing only: bearing fruit.

“Behold, it is thrown into the fire for fuel... When the fire has burned both ends of it and the middle is charred, is it useful for any work?” (Ezekiel 15:4, NKJV)

If a vine fails to produce fruit, it is tossed into the fire—because nothing else can be made from it. Even as fuel, its value is minimal.

God uses this image to show that Israel, having failed to fulfill its purpose, was heading toward judgment. It was not that God disliked Israel; on the contrary, He planted them to bear fruit. But when a people refuse their purpose, they become spiritually useless.

3. The Application to Jerusalem (Ezekiel 15:6-8)

“Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I will give up the inhabitants of Jerusalem.’” (Ezekiel 15:6, NKJV)

Jerusalem had been called to reflect God’s character, truth, and righteousness to the nations. God planted them, protected them, instructed them, and blessed them. Yet they chose idolatry and rebellion instead of spiritual fruitfulness.

Because of this, God was about to allow judgment to come. They had escaped previous crises “from one fire,” but another fire would follow (verse 7). When destruction came, they would know that the Lord was righteous in His dealings.

“I will make the land desolate... because they have persisted in unfaithfulness.” (Ezekiel 15:8, NKJV)

This judgment was not random or cruel; it was the natural fruit of rejecting God’s purpose.

Practical Application

1. God Did Not Save Us to Be Decorative—He Saved Us to Be Fruitful

A grapevine in a vineyard is not meant to be admired; it is meant to bear fruit. In the same way, God did not redeem us merely to give us a religious identity. He desires our lives to overflow with the fruit of His Spirit.

According to Galatians chapter 5 verse 22, the fruit of the Spirit is love. Love is expressed in kindness, patience, gentleness, goodness, and faithfulness. God desires to enjoy this fruit in our lives—not only for His glory, but also for our joy, peace, self-control, and for the good of those around us.

2. Fruit Comes from Abiding in Jesus

Jesus said in John chapter 15 verse 5:

“He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Fruitfulness is not produced by self-effort. It grows as we stay close to Jesus, trust Him, obey Him, and allow His life to flow through us.

3. A Fruitless Life Misses Its Purpose

A believer may be busy, religious, or admired by people—but if there is no spiritual fruit, the life is missing what God desires most. God is patient with His people, but He does not overlook or ignore fruitlessness. His desire is for transformation, not mere activity.

A Challenge for Believers

- Is your life bearing fruit for God’s glory?
- Are you abiding in Jesus daily, or are you trying to live the Christian life in your own strength?
- Has bitterness, distraction, or worldliness choked spiritual growth?
- Are you offering God wild grapes when He desires the fruit of His Spirit?

Take a moment to evaluate your heart honestly. God is not looking for perfection—He is looking for sincerity and yieldedness. Stay close to Jesus. Admit where you have been barren. Invite His Spirit to produce fruit in you that you cannot produce on your own.

Remember: God’s desire is not to discard you—His desire is to transform you into the fruitful person He created you to be.

An Invitation to Those Who Have Not Yet Given Their Life to Jesus

Ezekiel 15 reminds us that fruitlessness is not merely disappointing—it is spiritually deadly. Outside of Jesus, no one can bear the lasting fruit God requires. That is why God sent His Son.

Jesus shed His blood on the cross to save us from our sins, including our fruitlessness and our rebellion. He rose from the dead, proving that He is God, Savior, and Lord. He offers forgiveness, cleansing, and a new life filled with His Spirit.

If you have never surrendered your life to Him, you can do that right now. You can turn from sin and trust Him completely.

You might express your heart to God in words like these:

“Lord Jesus, I confess that I have lived my life without You and without fruit. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again. I ask You to forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new. I surrender myself to You as my Savior and my Lord. Help me to bear fruit for Your glory.”

If you call upon Him sincerely, He will save you.

He will forgive you.

And He will plant you in His vineyard, where your life can finally bear the fruit you were created for.