



*Your Story*  
is Better Than You Think





John 15:4-5





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## OUR PREMISE

When you join God's family by believing in Jesus,  
you become a part of His amazing, eternal Story.

*John 1:1-18*





# **Jesus' Last Words – John 15**

- 1. You are my branches, bear fruit!**
- 2. Remain in Me!!**
- 3. You will be persecuted!!!**



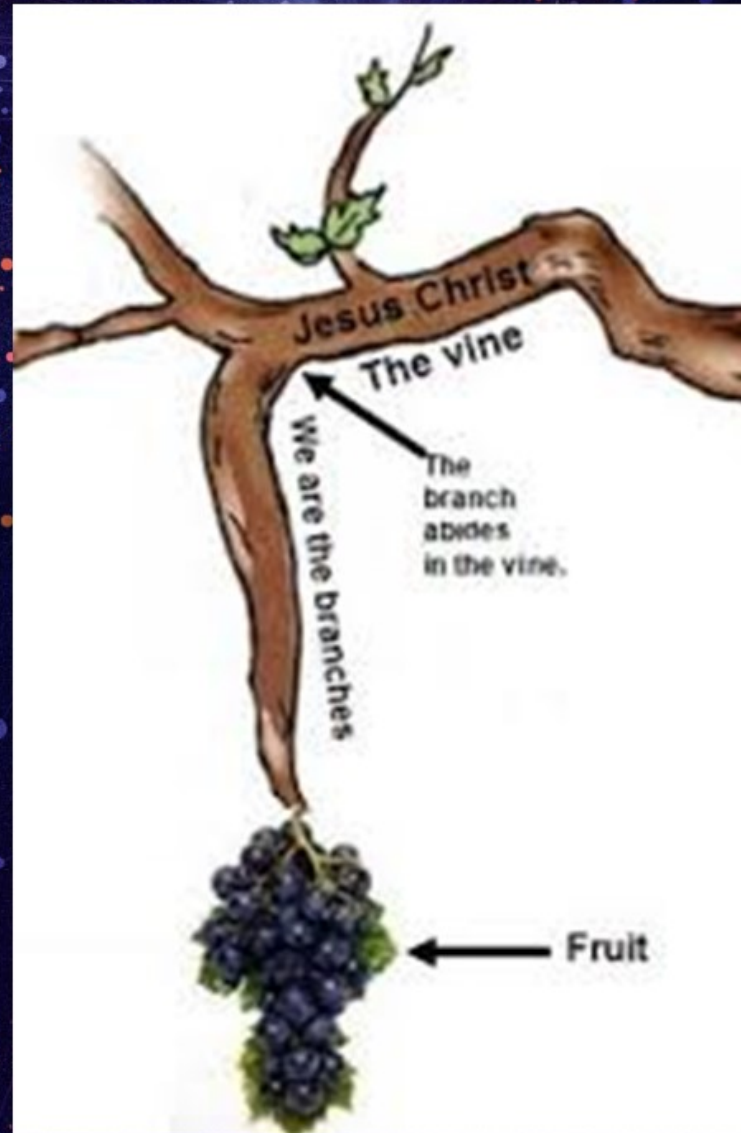


**1) You are my branches,  
BEAR FRUIT!**



## A God-sized Paradox

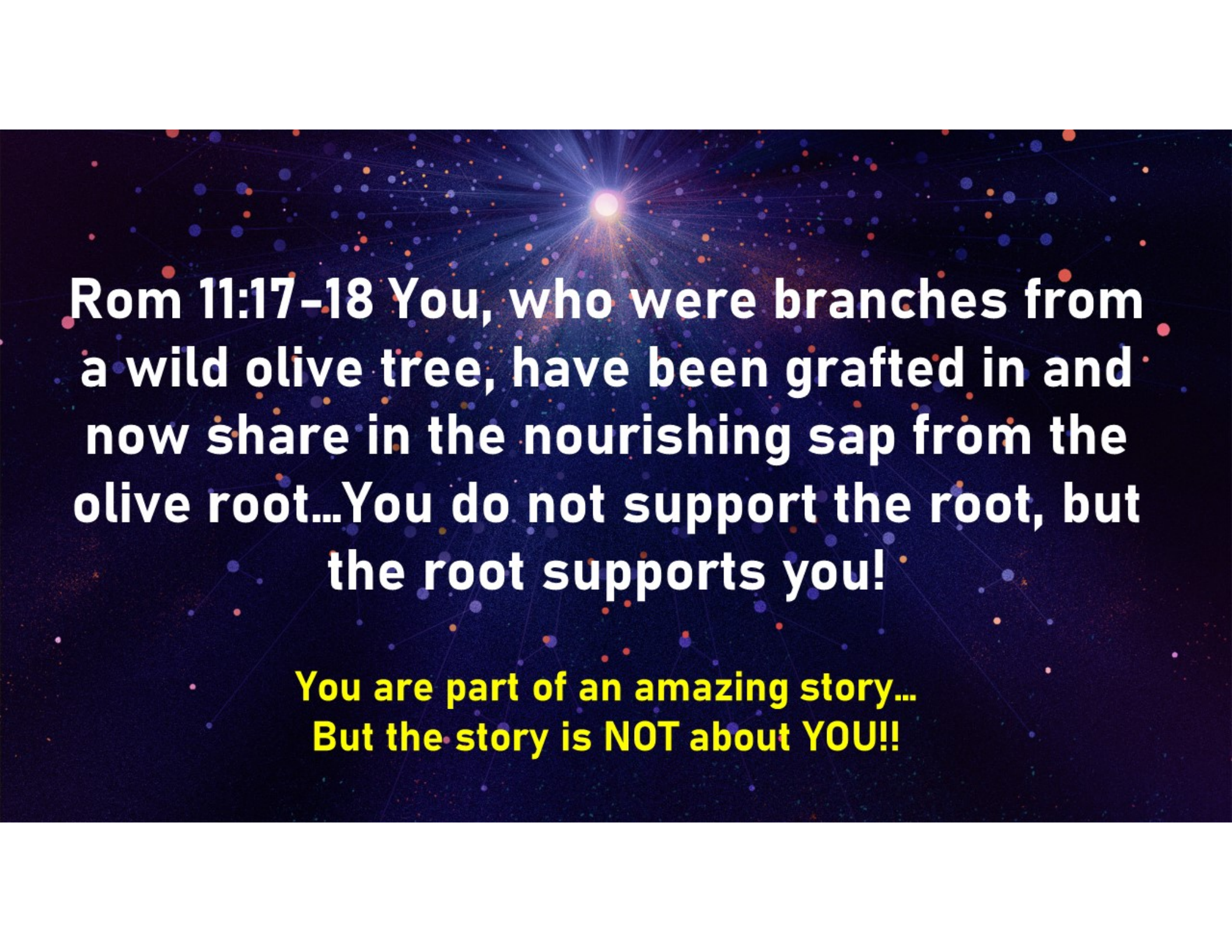
It is the branches that produce fruit...not the vine!



Yet without the vine the branch would not be able to produce fruit.

*Remember that!*





**Rom 11:17-18 You, who were branches from  
a wild olive tree, have been grafted in and  
now share in the nourishing sap from the  
olive root...You do not support the root, but  
the root supports you!**

**You are part of an amazing story...  
But the story is NOT about YOU!!**





## **“I am the True Vine”**

- **Jesus is our source of life and nourishment**
- **We must strongly attach ourselves to Jesus**
- **His life and nourishment flow through us**
- **We bear fruit in kind to the character of Jesus**





# What Does Fruit Look Like?

## Personal Character

### Galatians 5:22-23

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self Control





# What Does Fruit Look Like?

## Making Disciples

2 Timothy 2:2

Paul's Teachings



Timothy



Trustworthy people



Others also



# What Does Fruit Look Like?


## Evangelism

**John 4:35-38**

Wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest...the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life.







## 2) In order to produce fruit we must REMAIN/ABIDE in Jesus

Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.\*



The background of the slide is a deep space image. It features a bright, glowing star or galaxy core at the top center, emitting a radial pattern of light rays. The surrounding space is filled with numerous smaller stars of various colors (blue, orange, red, white) and faint, thin lines connecting some of them, resembling a constellation map or a network. The overall color palette is dark blue and black, with the light from the stars providing contrast.

How do we “Get in Jesus?”



The background of the slide is a deep blue space filled with numerous small, colorful dots (blue, orange, red, and white) representing stars. Faint, thin white lines connect some of these dots, forming various constellations. A single, very bright star is positioned near the top center, emitting a strong, multi-colored glow (yellow, orange, and blue) that radiates outwards, creating a lens flare effect.

## How do we “Get in Jesus?”

- **Humility**
- **Submission**
- **Obedience**





How do we “Get in Jesus?”

How do we “Remain in Jesus”

- **Humility**
- **Submission**
- **Obedience**





## How do we “Get in Jesus?”

- **Humility**
- **Submission**
- **Obedience**

## How do we “Remain in Jesus”

- **Humility**
- **Submission**
- **Obedience**

- **Stay on your knees. (Not about trying harder)**
- **Jn 15:9-13**





**Side Note: Pruning is required in order to be most productive.**

**Why Pruning?**

- **Remove Deadwood**
- **Shaping/Redirecting Growth**
- **Improving/Sustaining Health**
- **Reducing Self-harm**
- **Preparing for Transplanting**





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- Increasing Yield of Fruit
- Increasing Quality of Fruit
- Increasing Health/Durability





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**Examples of Pruning?**

- Change of Relationships
- Change of Priority
- Change of Character
- Stepping Outside of Comfort Zones
- Removing Addictions
- Removing Idols
- Confession/Vulnerability/Accountability
- Prayer
- Obeying the Word of God
- Submitting to God...NOT TRYING HARDER





# **3) The World Will Hate You**

**All the good stories have opposition to  
overcome (John 15:20–23)**



# The World Will Hate You

- Because the world hates Jesus, persecution is unavoidable
- Do not become irrelevant by trying to escape persecution!
- Make sure to count the cost of belonging to Jesus

(Lk 6:26 – Woe to you when all people speak well of you, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the false prophets)





# **Peter's understanding of persecution**

**Luke 22:54-62**

**VS**

**1 Peter 4:12-16**





# **Jesus' Last Words – John 15**

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# **Meditate on the Last Words of Jesus**

**Spend time this morning with the Author of your faith Story**

- ☐ **Do you need to enter into the Story?**
- ☐ **Do you need to reconnect with Jesus/remain in Him?**
- ☐ **Do you need to be pruned?**
- ☐ **Do you need to become more bold with your faith/prepare for persecution?**