



JOHN

Chapter 15:1-8

Abiding mission



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***“Bearing fruit in the
midst of
uncertainty”***



Questions

1. What is the context of Jesus' teaching about the fruitful vine?
2. Why does Jesus use this image of a vine?
3. What does "abiding" in the vine mean?

Question 1

What is the context of Jesus' teaching about the fruitful vine?

Context

- **Sacred time** - “being in the holy of holies” -
John 13-17

Context

- Sacred time - “being in the holy of holies” –
John 13-17
- **Preparation for dangers ahead** - John 16:1 & 33

Context

- Sacred time - “being in the holy of holies” – John 13-17
- Preparation for dangers ahead - John 16:1 & 33
- **Describes life as disciples** – inseparable and intimately found in Jesus

Question 2

Why does Jesus use this image of a vine?

Symbol of Israel

Examples - Psalm 80:8-16

Jeremiah 2:21

Isaiah 5:1-7

Everyday symbol



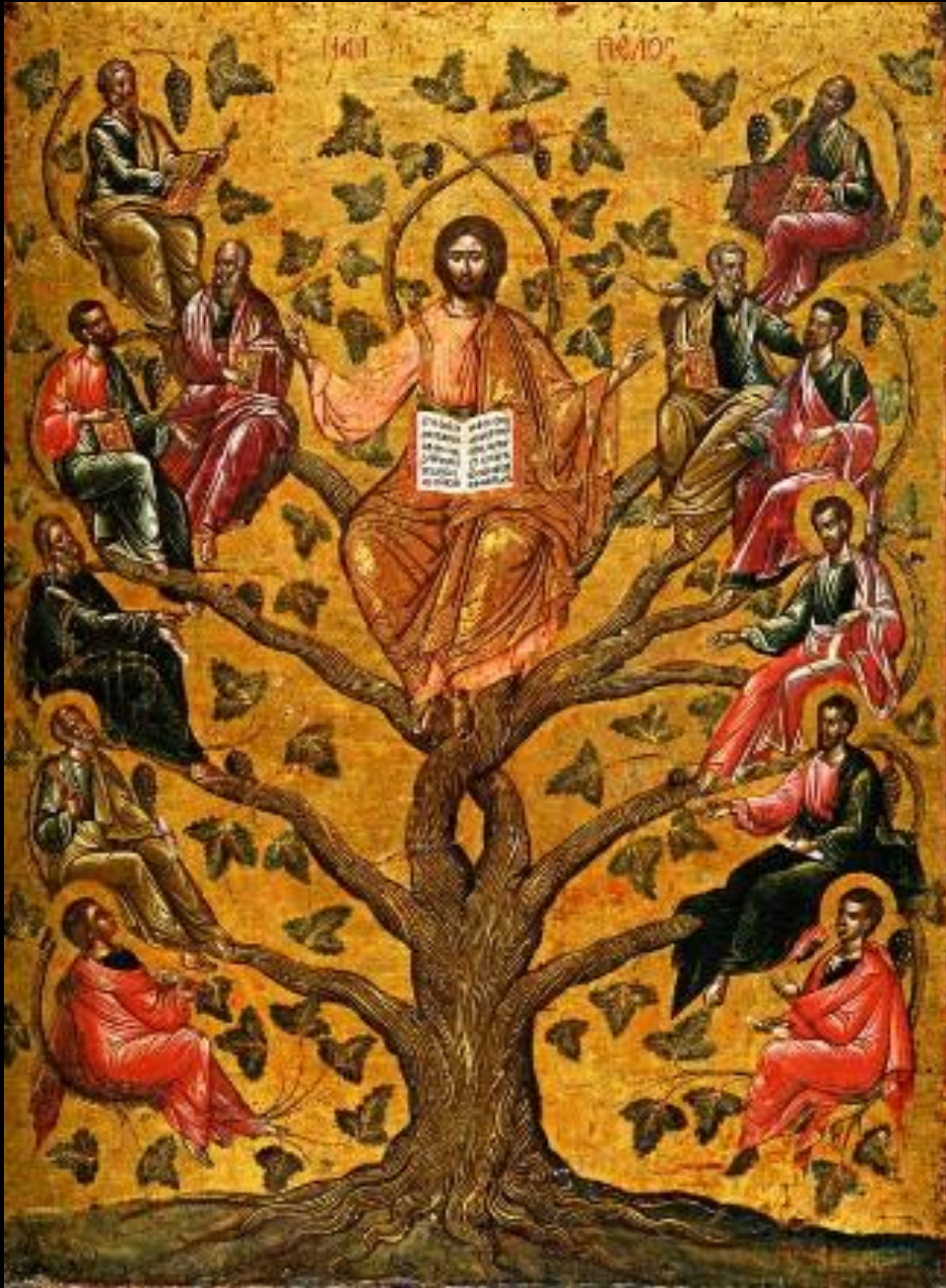
Coins minted in the
Maccabean revolt
167 BC – 160 BC



“... It had, moreover, above it those golden vines, from which descended grape-clusters as tall as a man”

[Jewish War v.210-212]

Image by Ritmeyer Archaeological design



New meaning to an
old symbol

Christ the True Vine, 16th
century Greek icon

Question 3

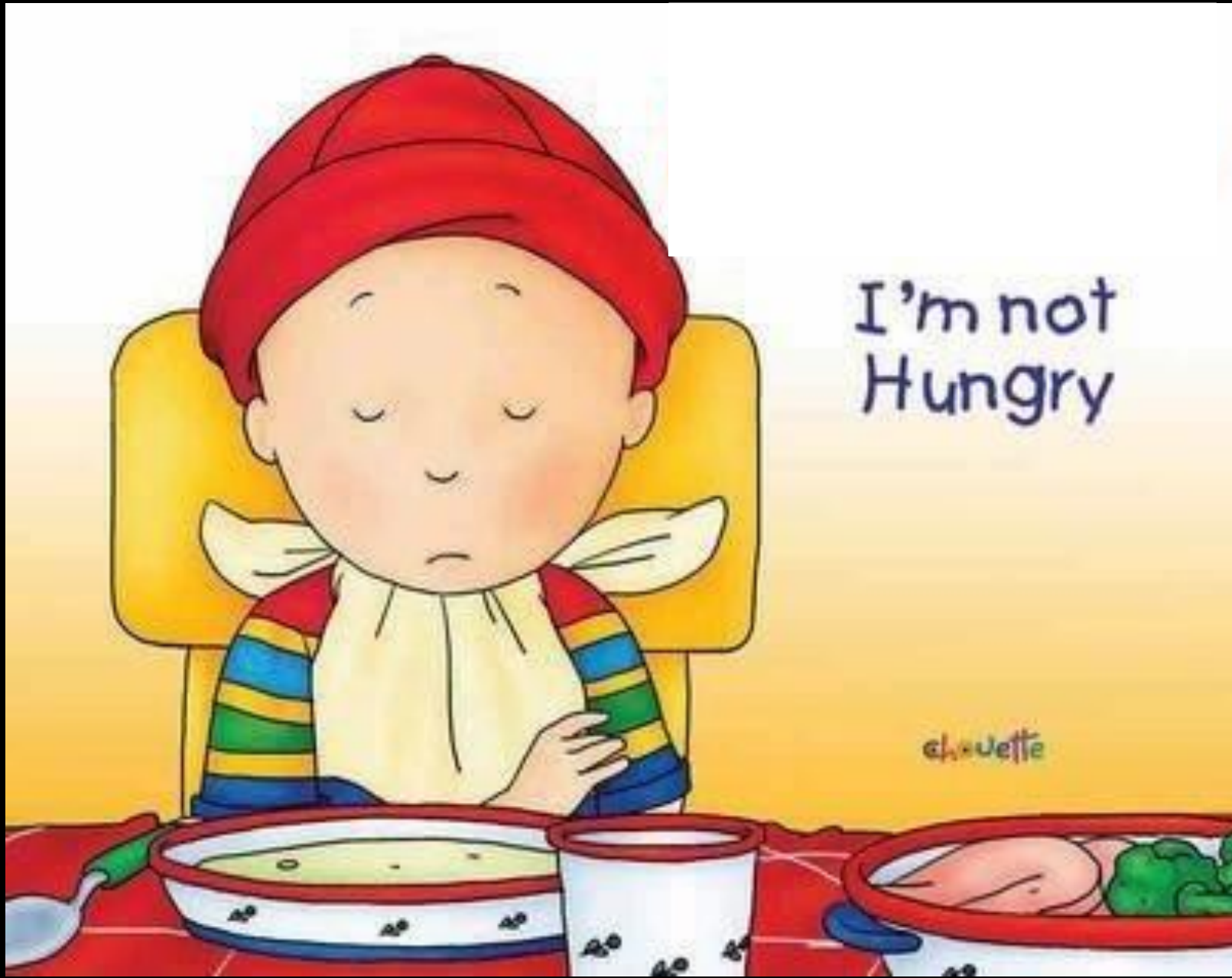
What does “abiding” in the Vine mean?

(A) Abiding is to stay deeply attached





Not now.
I'm busy.



I'm not
Hungry

chouette

**RESTRICTED
AREA**

**KEEP
OUT**

(B) Abiding is to grow



Growing means obedience



(C) Abiding is to embrace suffering



Cutting and cleaning (v2)

airei

αΐρει he cuts off (takes away)

kathairei

καθαΐρει he cuts back/prunes (cleans)



P R U N I N G

...is **NOT** optional.

Abiding is to embrace an incarnational life
& to love Jesus however costly

John 20:21

Matthew 10: 37-38

(D) Abiding is the source and fruit of mission





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**“the only way to
produce disciples
is to lavish
extravagant daily time
on Jesus”**

A summons to mission

“The indwelling of God with his people
is not a call to settle down
and forget the rest of the world –
it is a summons to mission.”

[Bruce Milne: The Message of John]



RUSSIA

KAZAKHSTAN

TURKEY

IRAN

IRAQ

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Persian Gulf

Red Sea

Arabian Sea

Moscow

Kazan

Ufa

Tyumen

Omsk

Novosibirsk

Oral

Astana

Karaganda

UKRAINE

MOLDOVA

ARMENIA

BULGARIA

Istanbul

Izmit

Ankara

Izmir

Antalya

Adana

Antakya

Lefkosa

CYPRUS

SYRIA

JORDAN

EGYPT

SAUDI ARABIA

U.A.E.

INDIA

CHECHNYA

INGUSHETIYA

KABARDINO-BALKARIYA

GEORGIA

ARMENIA

Yerevan

Van

Mosul

Bagdad

Esfahan

Shiraz

DAGESTAN

Makhachkala

Genge

Tabriz

Lankaran

Tehran

Mashhad

Herat

Kandahar

Quetta

Kabul

Faisalabad

Lahore

GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Islamabad

Faisalabad

Karachi

UZBEKISTAN

Ashgabat

Bukhara

Samarkand

Dushanbe

Kurganteppa

Mazar-i-Sharif

TAJIKISTAN

Tashkent

Shymkent

Osh

Kashgar

Bishkek

Almaty

TURKMENISTAN

Ashgabat

Mashhad

Herat

Kandahar

Quetta

Kabul

Faisalabad

Lahore

GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Islamabad

Faisalabad

Karachi

What about the hard places?

“The places today where the church does not exist are harsh, fierce, lonely and demanding; yet we must still go there.”

What is the purpose of fruit?

The Father's glory! (15:8)

Question to take away

What is God saying to us today?

- What is stopping us from extravagantly abiding?
- What areas need clearing? Or cleaning?
- What step(s) is God calling you to take?