




# Nothing Without Christ

*I am the vine, you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ~ John 15:5*

## Discover the Context John 15

 Each day after you read the devotional you should read the *Discover the Context* passage. Today read John 15:1-2 again. Who does Jesus say is the gardener? Who is the true vine? What is one of the gardener's jobs? What does this mean? Why does he do it? Are you ready for some pruning in your life? What do you think God wants to do in you this summer?

 “Do not confuse work and fruit. There may be a good deal of work for Christ that is not the fruit of the heavenly Vine.”  
~ Andrew Murray  
*Abide in Christ*

 What is the fruit produced from one who abides in Christ? What is the difference between work for Christ and the fruit produced by Christ? What does abiding in Christ look like for you this summer? How will you stay connected to him?

“Go ahead, counselor, swing out on that monkey vine. It’ll hold you.”

We were hiking up a mountainside, and one of those long, twisted rope-like vines was hanging down out of a giant tree, situated nicely at the top of a steep drop-off. I understood the concept—grasp the vine firmly, take a leap, and swing out over the bank. Screaming.

But I remembered my camp orientation, liability forms, and ACA regulations. So I gave a firm tug on the twisted vine, and wouldn’t you know—it fell to the ground. Of course, my campers thought it was the funniest thing all week. I thought it was the smartest.

Jesus is calling you this summer to swing out on perhaps the biggest test of your faith yet. Serving at a Christian camp. Making sacrifices. Living with a team. Doing things you’ve never done before. Investing in kids. Not making much money. Stepping out of your comfort zone.

Like that monkey vine that was only superficially wrapped around the tree, if you are not fully gripped on Jesus, there’s bound to be a big thud pretty soon. You will quickly experience failure, disappointment, fear, worry, and embarrassment. Actually, what Jesus says in the verse at the top of this page is, *You’ll be nothing.*

Don’t take this the wrong way, but you’re a vine. And Jesus is the trunk. For success this summer, all year, and throughout your life, you need to have a faith in Jesus that depends on him for everything. Not just in a way that you ask for his help when you get stuck, but in a way that acknowledges your weakness and sin, such that you are 100% desperate for his strength and perfection. Every moment of every day.

He won’t let you down. He is more powerful than the worst thunderstorm. He is more gracious than the sweetest person you know. He loves you so much that he has already given his life for you. (JCR)