

John 15- Pruning

JON - the following is for in house only:

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

BEFORE BAPTISM:

(done with the congregation)

Pastor: Do you believe in one God, the Father Almighty?

Congregation: We do.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus, the only son of God? Do you believe He became man, died, was resurrected, ascended to heaven, and will come again?

Congregation: We do.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the gift from the Father and the Son to us?

Congregation: We do.

ONLINE NOTES START HERE

John 15:1-5 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵ "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

Spiritual discipline is essential to a fruitful life.

A fruitful vine nourishes others when we are being fed from the source of life, Jesus.

⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

⁹ "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

You can survive on the love of others, but you'll never thrive unless you're abiding in the love of God.

Just like we can't remain somewhere we have never been, we can't remain in a love we've never received.

¹²This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. ¹⁶You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

Jesus commands us to love one another as He has loved us.

¹⁸: "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. ²⁰Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally, they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. ²¹They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. ²²They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now, they have no excuse for their sin. ²³Anyone who hates me also hates my Father.

Contrast reveals the value of something.

Being a Christian will cost you something.

(Jeremy will come up)

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Bible Recap reading plan with a friend.

Recite this prayer daily:

Father,
Jesus,
Holy Spirit

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or your Group)

- Read John 15:1-5 slowly. What stands out to you?
- Is there something from Sunday's message that you have been thinking about or brought up a question?
- God is always cleansing and remolding us to make us more like the image of Jesus. What is one spiritual discipline He wants you to begin this week?
- What does abiding in God's love look/feel like to you? What are some signs that you are becoming top-heavy and are beginning to be "uprooted?"
- Read Deuteronomy 4:26-31 slowly. What parallels do you see between this scripture and John 15:6?
- How can we embody the love that Jesus showed for us in our relationships with others?
- What is something you sense God is asking you to prune? And at what cost?
- Are you taking the time to abide? Are you remaining? Are you loving? Are you living in contrast?