

Abide In The Vine

The Gospel of The Kingdom - Week 10 (5-11-22)

Jeremiah 17:5-8

I. Life in the vine - John 15:1-8

A. Don't be distracted by the world

1. Only one true source of life, and the world is NOT it.
 - a) Every part of creation is fighting for life right now because everything degrading and losing energy. Including the universe!
2. Fight for life!
 - a) God has designed us to naturally want to fight for life.
 - b) Despite it's circumstances, this tree is reaching for life (light). →
3. Where is your focus?
 - a) "In this world, but not of it." - John 17:11 & 14-15
 - b) Zoo animals...
 - c) If the enemy can't get our heart he will do his best to distract us!
 - (1) "Don't let the distractions become your destiny!" - Gene Bailey
 - (2) We must also remember that this is not our home!
4. We have to look at our surroundings to be aware of what's around us, but it becomes a problem when our surroundings cause us to forget where our true source of life is.
 - a) This is a point where our worship moves from God to something else.
 - (1) If the enemy can distract us, and get our focus on something other than God then he can eventually get our heart.
 - (2) Your focus will determine your outcome!
 - (a) See - Do - Get



II. Bearing Fruit

A. The natural process

B. Bearing doesn't necessarily mean producing.

1. The fruit on any fruit bearing plant is simply the result of the life flowing through it.
2. You can't produce the fruit - vs. 5 "...without me you can do nothing."
 - a) 2 Corin. 3:5 - "Not that we are sufficient of our selves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God"
 - (1) 2 Corin. 9:8 - "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."
 - b) Your job is to stay connected to the vine, and to be ready to receive the life of the vine.

(1) Mark 4 - the parable of the sower.

(a) The soil is your heart. The condition of your heart is determined by the direction of your gaze!

c) Weeds and tears will spring up outside of your garden. Don't let those things bother you. The problem starts when we allow them to spring up and take root in your garden (our heart).

III. The Pruning - John 15:2-3

A. Don't be held back by yourself

B. Notice that the branch does not prune itself.

C. "Purgeth" and "clean" both come from the same root word: Katharos = clean, clear, pure.

1. This process is accomplished through God's word

2. John 17:14-17 - "Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth."

a) God's word (Truth) sets us apart from the rest of the world.

3. Eph. 5:25-27

a) Sanctifying (setting apart) the church by making it clean, without spot or wrinkle.

(1) Evil things grow in darkness and filth.

(2) God's word shines the light and removes the junk because it's truth and nothing can change it.

(3) "anything that comes against the word of God is trying to produce filth in your life." - DL

(4) Things that grow in darkness die when they are exposed to light.

(5) The cleansing/pruning process is not enjoyable, and evil will fight against it every step of the way.

(a) it's part of us that has to be cut off. It's part of the branch that has to be cut off.

(b) Something that is absorbing life, but not producing any fruit. - maybe our flesh?

Trust in God! He Loves you too much to leave you in the filth and darkness!

1 Thess. 5:4-11