

Sermon Notes

"Grape Expectations"

John 15:1-16

October 9, 2016

7. Describe one experience you have had of being pruned or cleaned by the Father (15:2-3)?

8. Although pruning may be a painful process, it is positive. What is the correlation between suffering and fruitfulness (See Hebrews 12:4-13)?

9. Jesus spoke with his disciples about vines and branches so that his joy may be in them and so their joy would be complete (15:11). What does it mean for joy to be "complete"? In what way is your joy complete?

Introduction:

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

*Enrique and Becky Fernandez - ReachGlobal ProMETA,
Guatemala*

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give strength and wisdom to Enrique as he trains up pastors that will lead their flocks; so they can minister through the Word of God.

3. What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian? (In addition to the immediate context, consider Rom. 8:29; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 2:10; Acts 2:47)

Conclusion:

4. Jesus insisted that branches must “remain” or “abide” in the vine in order to bear fruit (15:4). What does it look like for a Christian to obey this command? That is, how do we “remain” in Christ?

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 10-09-16

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., *John: Life Change Series*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 157-158; Jim Petersen, *Living Proof*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1989, pp. 240-41; James Galvin, ed., et al., *New Testament Lesson Maker*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 178-79.

Getting Started:

1. The Greek word *menō* occurs forty times in John’s gospel, and eleven times in today’s passage. It implies permanence, and can be translated as remain, abide, stay, dwell, endure. In an ordinary sense it is used for living someplace for awhile. How many different places have you lived in your lifetime?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read John 15:1-16. What is God’s stated purpose for you (John 15:2, 5, 8, 16)?

5. Between his departure and His return at the end of the age, during Jesus’ physical absence (13:33), Jesus promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to dwell within believers (14:16-17) as Jesus’ surrogate presence (14:18, 23). The Spirit testifies to Jesus (15:26), glorifies Jesus (16:14), carefully teaches and reminds only of the truths that come from Jesus (14:26; 16:12-15). How does all of this inform your understanding of what Jesus means by “If a man remains in me and I in him” (15:5)?
6. In this passage Jesus draws attention to the importance of obedience to his teaching (15:3, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15). What is the connection between his teaching/commands/message and our ongoing abiding relationship with him?