

CCC Message Notes

"Vines, Branches & Love" - John 15:1-17

Just Before He's Arrested Jesus Speaks His Final Words to His First Followers

"The Gospel of John" series - part 30 Pastor Dan Page - 3/5/17

THEME / (The Sermon In a Sentence or Two)

Jesus gives His disciples an analogy & an example to assist & equip them.

APPLICATION / (What to Do with What You Hear)

Be sure you're attached to & abiding in Him / experiencing & expressing His love.

FOCUS / (The Core of the Content to Get Us Started)

Nature is full of examples of spiritual principles ... water refreshes & gives life (the Spirit) ... gardening (seeds & produce / choices & consequences) ... branches & vines / trees & limbs (no attachment / no life). This morning we'll focus on that last one.

We'll also be reminded that God's love is the love we need know & show.

Jesus Continues to Prepare His Disciples for His Death & Departure by Telling Them ...

1. LIFE in HIM is like BRANCHES on a VINE
with a GARDENER who's LOOKING for FRUIT.

He uses an analogy to make a spiritual reality come alive.

John 15:1-4

2. The ONLY WAY for there TO BE
FRUIT is for US to ABIDE in HIM.

An unattached branch is good for nothing & cannot produce anything.

John 15:5-7

3. the FATHER'S DESIRE is MUCH FRUIT.

We show ourselves to be His disciples not by gifts but by fruit.

John 15:8

4. His LOVE for THEM is their EXAMPLE
of how to LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

When Jesus said "as I have loved you," they knew exactly what He meant.

John 15:9-15

5. He CHOSE them to GO & BEAR FRUIT, experience
ANSWERED PRAYER & LOVE EACH OTHER.

There should be evidence we're His that others see & experience in & through us.

John 15:16-17

Making It Real Questions

* Does the "attached & alive or detached & dead" reality of this jolt you as it should?

* Can you see the simplicity of this? (Remember, simple doesn't mean easy, just simple.)

* Are you convinced this is God's goal - that He really is looking for a lot?

* How will you cultivate your awareness of this reality?

* In what specific ways is this trio of truths showing up in your life today?

Action Step

Create a prayer request by answering these questions on a scale of 1-10: what's the quantity & quality of the fruit in my life / what's my level of receiving & giving love?