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| Isaiah 5:1-7  John 15:1-17 | Tips on Fruit Growing | Pinelands – 9am – 06/08/2023  Thornton – 10:30am – 06/08/2023 |

**A few years ago there was a buzz word that was circulating…**

**AUTHENTICITY**

It is a lovely word… ***AUTHENTICITY.***

ARE WE… AUTHENTIC… *In who we are?*

*Christians?*

*Followers of Jesus?*

Many people say…

Church goers are such hypocrites…

They go to church on Sundays… ***BUT…***

live such different lives during the week.

**SADLY…** those people are often…

**More… *Right than Wrong***

Many people profess to be…

Believers, Christians, Followers of Jesus,

**BUT…** Often those are just Empty Words.

Inactive church attenders

Pew-warmers

Only worship at Christmas and Easter

Church Butterflies

(Makes faith UN-REAL)

**In John 15…** Jesus gives us a **way of determining** an

***AUTHENTIC follower of Jesus.***

**Jesus says…** ***“Look at their lives to see if they are…***

***BEARING FRUIT.”***

In fact reading the passage carefully…

Jesus mentions ***“Fruit Bearing”…* 8 times**

**The FIRST thing to notice in this passage is the…**

**EXPECTATION FOR FRUIT.**

In the Old Testament ***(Isaiah 5)…***

**God’s people** were compared to a vineyard…

The owner of a vineyard expected grapes. ***(good grapes)***

**Verse 7… *“Israel is the vineyard,***

***He expected them to do what is good,***

***He expected them to do what was right.”***

God Expected **Good Fruit**

**Likewise,** ***Jesus expects fruit from His followers.***

The **FRUIT** that Jesus expects is…

**The FRUIT of LOVE…**

**Jesus says… (twice)…**

***“My commandment is this… Love one another…***

***As I have loved you.”***

Known as the Golden Commandment of the NT

**Jesus looks for His LOVE in the lives of His followers.**

If we **are not…** Doing that

Showing and Exercising that Love

Bearing that fruit

*(NOT just fruit…* ***BUT…*** *Good Fruit)*

**THEN…** We **are not** doing what…

Jesus calls us to

Jesus expects of us.

*(Visioning Workshop Outcomes - EXPAND)*

**The SECOND thing to notice in this passage is…**

**THE CONDITIONS FOR FRUIT BEARING.**

***PRUNING…*** and… ***ABIDING.***

***PRUNING*** means… ***Removing*** everything….

THAT… Hinders or Prevents Fruit Growing

**An Artist** who sculpted images out of blocks of marble…

was once asked…

***“How he managed to sculpt such a beautiful Angel?”***

To which he replied…

***“It is quite simple really… I just chip away everything***

***That is not part of the Angel.”***

When it comes to our **FAITH…**

**PRUNING** is just cutting away everything that is not

***Part of God / Jesus.***

Thus giving more space for GOOD Fruit to grow…

***God to be SEEN***

***PRUNING…*** also means… ***We are not* PERFECT…**

We do not get things right all the time.

We do not always have it all together

***There is still work to be done…***

And there will always be more work to be done

***ABIDING*** means… Allowing Jesus to live in a person.

The term ***“ABIDING”…***

describes the **intimate relationship** of

the Vine with the branches

***OR…*** Jesus with His followers.

The only way to be **PRUNED** and to **ABIDE** is to…

***maintain a vital spiritual connection*** with Jesus *(the vine).*

***(We must do whatever we can and need to…***

***To maintain and facilitate that Connection)***

**Remember** that Jesus as the vine will **always…**

fulfil his part of the relationship as long as…

the branches keep in union with him.

**Jesus is always present…**

If we **ABIDE** in Him…

Might not always feel like it…

***BUT…*** He Is Present.

***PRUNING* and *ABIDING…***

is an **ongoing, never - ending process.**

**A THIRD thing to notice is…**

**THE BENEFITS OF GOOD FRUIT BEARING**

**First…** Others **will know** that a person is an…

***Authentic Follower of Jesus.***

**BECAUSE…** ***they can see…***

Christ in his or her life.

The Characteristics of a Jesus Filled Life

*(love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,*

*Faithfulness, gentleness, humility*

*And self-control.)* ***(Gal 5:22-23)***

There will be… **“No Artificial Anything”**

REMEMBER that song and bible verse?…

***“And they will know that they are***

***Christians by their LOVE.”***

**Second…** The **GOOD fruit** brings glory to God

An Authentic Follower of Jesus…

Always points others in the direction of God

There is evidence of a deep connection…

With Jesus and the Almighty

There is a sustaining strength that…

Helps them cope with Life

There is a sense of Community and…

**NOT** just of Self.

When people walk through a **FRIUT ORCHARD…**

They determine the kind of tree by the…

Way it **LOOKS** and by the **FRUIT** it Bares.

**When people walk through *LIFE…***

What Fruit do they see in you?

**Can they see a *CHRISTLIKE LIFE* in you?**

**Isaiah 5:1-7 The Song of the Vineyard**

Listen while I sing you this song,

a song of my friend and his vineyard:

My friend had a vineyard

on a very fertile hill.

He dug the soil and cleared it of stones;

he planted the finest vines.

He built a tower to guard them,

dug a pit for treading the grapes.

He waited for the grapes to ripen,

but every grape was sour.

So now my friend says, “You people who live in Jerusalem and Judah, judge between my vineyard and me. Is there anything I failed to do for it? Then why did it produce sour grapes and not the good grapes I expected?

“Here is what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge around it, break down the wall that protects it, and let wild animals eat it and trample it down. I will let it be overgrown with weeds. I will not trim the vines or hoe the ground; instead, I will let briers and thorns cover it. I will even forbid the clouds to let rain fall on it.”

Israel is the vineyard of the Lord Almighty;

the people of Judah are the vines he planted.

He expected them to do what was good,

but instead they committed murder.

He expected them to do what was right,

but their victims cried out for justice

**John 15:1-17 Jesus the Real Vine**

“I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you. Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me. Those who do not remain in me are thrown out like a branch and dry up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples. I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. This, then, is what I command you: love one another.