

PULPIT CURRICULUM

Necessary Endings: Pruning for Growth

September 13 – 19, 2020
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1. GOING DEEPER

John 15:1-5

1a) What is the purpose of pruning according to John 15:2?

b) Discuss some of the reasons that Christians sometimes resist God's pruning in our lives?

c) What are the possible impacts on our lives and on the lives of others if we refuse to accept the pruning that God wants to do in our lives?

2a) When going through a painful situation, how can we determine whether this is because of an attack of the enemy; our own actions; or God's pruning in our lives?

b) In what way might times of trial be considered to be a gift or blessing? (Refer to Psalm 117:71 and James 1:2-4)

c) Explore some of the areas of our lives which may need to be subjected to pruning.

3a) Explain how can we show intentionality about becoming more fruitful in our Christian walk? (Refer to Colossians 1:9-10)

b) Examine with reference to scripture verses what a life of abundance might look like for the believer.

c) How can we go about tracking our level of fruitfulness?

2. ASSESS YOUR LIFE

To what extent are you submitting to God's pruning in your life?



I usually resist God's pruning in my life.



I am becoming more open to God's pruning in my life.



I am fully submitted to God's pruning in my life.



What can you do to be more intentional about pruning away the things in your life that are not the best; the sick things; and the dead things so that you can bear more fruit?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. APPLICATION

Of the list above, which one(s) will you be intentional about working on this week? _____

I will ask _____ to hold me *accountable* in this.

Key Verse

John 15:5 (ESV)

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing"

Sermon Main Points

Sermon Highlights

If we want our lives to produce abundant fruit, we must:

- Be open to the pruning process;
- Be intentional and prune as necessary; and
- Track our level of fruitfulness.

- God wants to prune us so that we can produce fruit in abundance.
- To produce fruit, we must be connected to the Vine.
- Unlike a tree, we are a part of the pruning process: we can choose to accept or resist the pruning.
- Being opened to pruning means that we are going to allow God to work on our lives. When we are not open to pruning, we rob others of the outflow that comes from our abundance.
- We may need to make adjustments to how we view the pruning process so that we can be open to hearing and receiving correction from God and others

Day 1

Galatians 5:22-24

What I learned (observation / interpretation):

How I will Respond (application):

Day 2

Philippians 4:6-7

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 3

Matthew 5:16

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 4

Romans 12:1-2

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 5

Psalms 1:1-3

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Inductive Bible Study Method



Observation (What does the text say?)

This phase is about observing exactly what the text is saying.

Pretend you're an investigator who's just gathering the facts. Ask yourself the five W's and H: (Who, what, where, when, why, how).



Interpretation (What does the text mean?)

Discover what the author is trying to communicate. And to do this, you need to look at the context to determine

- What is the **main theme** and what is the **meaning** of key words;
- Examine **cross references**
- Compare **translations**
- **Summarize** the text
- **Use** commentaries (last resort)



Application (How should this affect Me?)

Don't study the bible just for knowledge – study for application. If you stop at the interpretation stage, you are selling yourself short. Based on what you have learnt, ask yourself "How should this change the way I think, speak and behave?"

Seek to identify if there are - **Sins** to confess; **Promises** to claim; **Examples** to follow; **Actions** to obey or **Knowledge** to grow in.

For best results, this content should be read and prepared privately and then discussed in your small group or with family / friends.

We were not created to do life alone - get engaged today.

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