

Morning Worship

June 3, 2018

Scripture Reading Colossians 2:6-8 Don/People

Chorus # 256 *Father, I Adore You* Don/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Hymn # 217 *Oh, How I Love Jesus* Don/People

Hymn # 63 *Abide with Me* Don/People

Hymn # 446 *Take Time to Be Holy* Don/People

Offering Prayer Fred Kerns

Offering Music

Children's Worship (Children are dismissed)

Message *The True Vine* Allan Lane

Hymn # 317 *Only Trust Him* Dan/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Chorus # 217 *Oh, How I Love Jesus* Dan/People

The True Vine

John 15:1-8 June 3, 2018 am

Over the past several weeks we have looked at the "I AM" statements of Jesus. As He traveled along with His disciples, Jesus spotted an illustration to once again claim His deity. While preparing to commission them for Kingdom service, He helped them to understand how God would make it happen. He wants His disciples to be fruitful followers in all aspects of life.

Q: What sound does a grape make when an elephant steps on it?

A: None. It just lets out a little wine.

Q: What's large and purple and lives in the ocean?

A: Moby Grape.

Q: How can you tell the difference between a grape and an elephant if you're color blind?

A: Dance on it for a while. If you don't get any wine, it's an elephant.

Okay, I know those were bad! But today we're going to talk about grapes, grapevines, and pruning. Why? Because we're looking at John 15 and in this passage Christ says he is the vine and we are the branches.

Jesus is with His disciples on the way to the Gethsemane. Somewhere along the way, they likely came across a vineyard which served as the perfect setting for another important lesson from the Messiah.

Jesus wants His followers for generations to come to know exactly how to live an overflowing life – remember, Jesus was preparing to commission them into His service and He wanted them to understand what God would do to make it happen. He wants His disciples to be fruitful followers in all aspects of life.

1. The Participants : The Vineyard.

a. The Vine .

He is the source of life and fruitfulness. A branch can neither exist nor bear fruit apart from the vine. The vine was the sacred root of the vineyard. You can't accomplish the will of God on your own. Your life is for a divine purpose, but you'll never know or accomplish apart from Jesus.

b. The Vinedresser .

The vinedresser's task is to coax from His plants the greatest harvest possible.

c. The Branches .

The branch and not the root are the focus of the vinedresser because the branches produce the fruit. Branches are tied to a trellis to allow the air to circulate while exposing the branches to the sun. The vinedresser lovingly cultivates every branch that it might produce fruit.

2. The Purpose : Bear Fruit.

I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain. John 15:16

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit. John 15:8

Practically speaking, fruit represents good works including thoughts, actions, and attitudes that value and honor God.

a. Inner Fruit.

This is when you allow God to nurture in you Christ-like qualities.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

b. Outer Fruit.

This is when you allow Christ to work through you to bring Him glory and to impact others for the Kingdom of God. This occurs when your life begins to fulfill the Great Commission – and you are used of God to impact your world for Him.

God is able to make grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

3. The Process : Nurturing.

As a child of God – either your life produces good fruit or no fruit. And depending on your fruitfulness, will determine how God will tend to your life.

a. Bears No Fruit. (Lifts Up)

Word: airo – take or lift up (not cut off or remove)

Used in Matthew 14:20 – the disciples took up 12 baskets of food.

Used in John 1:29 – John the Baptist called Jesus the one who takes away sin.

Story: Bruce Wilkerson was with a vineyard owner – Owner explained that new branches have a natural tendency to trail down and grow along the ground, but are unable to produce fruit because leaves get coated with dust, mud, and mildew stagnating fruitfulness – the branches becomes sick and useless. But a vinedresser would never cut off the new growth because it is much too valuable and its potential too abundant. The keeper walks through the vineyard with water to clean off, lift up, and attach to the trellis to expose to the sunlight so that the branch thrives.

For the Christian, sin is like dirt covering our branches stagnating fruitfulness – air and light can't get in and we languish in unfruitfulness. So the Father has to bring us through a gentle and loving process to clean us up to cultivate us.

What does God do with wayward, unfruitful believers? He takes whatever means necessary to cultivate them to fruitfulness (see Hebrews 12:5-6).

You have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: My son, don't take the Lord's discipline lightly, or faint when you're reproved by Him; for the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and punishes every son whom He receives.

1 He Reproves (Rebukes)

A rebuke is a verbal warning where God makes Himself heard through:

- A prick of our conscience
- A timely word of encouragement from a person
- A verse or passage of Scripture
- A word of truth from a sermon or Bible study.
- A word of conviction from the Holy Spirit

If we have open ears to hear God and open hearts to respond, then we will be turned back toward God, but if not, then the discipline intensifies.

2 He Disciplines (Chastens)

Chastening is something you feel as emotional anxiety, frustration, and distress stealing joy and peace from your life. Pressure increases in all areas of your life leading to discontent and tension.

You start becoming discontent at church, at home, at work, and at rest. You begin to become unfulfilled and critical and the things of God become a weight instead of a relief – b/c God isn't going to give you peace in the midst of disobedience. That's why He ran Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.

And if a person doesn't recognize God's discipline and continues in a path contrary to His will and way – then discipline will turn to punishment.

3 He Punishes (Scourges)

The word used here means to inflict punishment – the same word used to describe what the Roman soldiers did to Jesus before they crucified Him.

This is serious and it's not a pretty picture. The word for scourge could be translated – excruciating pain.

At this level, a person is living in open sin with a flagrant disregard for truth and righteousness. They are abusing the grace of God as a license for sin. This rebellion incurs God's greatest love to return you to fruitfulness as He uses intense pain to try to bring you back to your senses and into a right relationship.

"God whispers through pleasure, but He shouts to us through pain" (C. S. Lewis).

God's actions are always intended to nudge us lovingly, persistently, and wisely toward the life and character He desire in us – Christ-likeness.

He wants us to be fruitful disciples for His Kingdom and Glory – "By this will all men know that you are my disciples, that you bear much fruit."

b. Bears Good Fruit. (Prunes)

Those who produce fruit get pruned – they get the knife – and pruning isn't fun, but it is the only way to be productive. In fact, a grapevine, like a disciple, will never produce anywhere near its potential unless it undergoes regular pruning.

- Pinching – remove tip to slow growth process
- Topping – taking 1 to 2 feet off the top to prevent the loss of a shoot
- Thinning – grape cluster enables the branch to produce more grapes
- Cutting – taking out the suckers gives more nourishment to the plant

Where discipline is meant to lead us to repentance, pruning is intended to lead us to release ourselves to God and His purpose – it's not about me!

Your heavenly Father is never nearer to you than when He is pruning you. Sometimes the He cuts away the dead wood that might cause trouble; but often he cuts off the living tissue that is robbing you of spiritual vigor. God is cutting away self – He must increase, we must decrease. But the pruning process doesn't just cut away the bad, it also trims the good. God is cutting away anything detrimental to our relationship with Him.

4. The Priority : Abide.

a. The Imperative .

This means to remain; to stay closely connected; to settle in for the long term. It is to make God the center of your universe in which all of your life orbits around His will.

b. The Blessing .

1 I will abide with you

Abide in me and I will continue to live through you making you fruitful.
2 I will bless you

By abiding you and I stay connected to Him drawing spiritual strength and nourishment from Him affording us His power to flow through us causing us to be fruitful for His glory.

How Do I Abide

- I must deepen the quality of my devoted time w/ God
- I must broaden my devoted time from an appointment to a lifestyle
- I must realize the my devotion is based on the truth of His promises
- I must abide by faith that leads to obedience
- I must be in a continual state of decreasing in self to increase in Him

Conclusion

In Hampton Court, there is a grapevine that is reported to be the oldest living vine. It is over 230 years old. This grapevine has one root which is 3.6 metres (12 foot) round, and some of the branches are over 36.5 metres (120 foot) long. Despite its age the vine still produces 500 to 700 bunches (weighing 220 – 320 kg / 485 - 705 lb) of grapes each year. Although some of the branches are 120 feet from the main root, they still bear the sweet and delicious fruit because they are connected to the vine. Each branch is connected directly to the stem and draws nourishment from it.

"Jesus is not only that [the vine]: He is soil and sunshine, air and showers, and ten thousand times more than we have ever dreamed, wished for, or needed."

You don't have to stay where you are right now. You can fast forward to fruitfulness but you must run to Him, not away from Him any longer. God's discipline is always intended to be redemptive and restorative. He is more interested in propelling you toward fruitfulness than He is in punishing you. Is there a meager amount of fruit in your basket? Don't spend a minute longer languishing in the muck and mire of sin. You are not stuck where you are with no way out. Allow Him to lift you up. If we are faithful, God will make us fruitful.

Let God Make You Fruitful!

Making Prayer A Priority

In West Texas is a famous oil field known as the Yates Pool. During the Depression, this field was a sheep ranch owned by a man named Yates. Mr. Yates was not able to make enough money on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgage, so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family like many others had to live on a government subsidy.

Day after day, as he grazed his sheep, he wondered how he would be able to pay his bills. Then a seismograph crew from an oil company came into the area and told Mr. Yates that there might be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat well, and he signed a lease contract.

At 1,115 feet they struck a huge oil reserve. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Many of the later wells were more than twice as large. Thirty years after the first well was drilled, all the wells still had the potential of pumping 125,000 barrels of oil a day. And Mr. Yates owned it all! The day he purchased the property he received the oil and mineral rights,

yet he was living on government assistance. What was the problem? He did not know the oil was there. He owned it, but he did not know it.

This is similar to us as Christians. I think we have some really good things available to us in Christ but often, we don't even realize it. And we don't put these things to use in life. And one of them is the power to overcome obstacles and difficulties in life. Doesn't this sound good? It is good and it's from God and it is ours if we'll just avail ourselves of that power.

Preacher John Wesley said, "I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it." Could this be the reason that he was able to accomplish so much for Christ during his lifetime?

John Wesley traveled several miles a day for 40 years, riding horseback a documented 250,000 miles in his lifetime. He preached forty thousand sermons (2 or 3 times a day); produced four hundred books; knew ten languages. At eighty-three he was annoyed that he could not write more than fifteen hours a day without hurting his eyes, and at eighty-six he was ashamed he could not preach more than twice a day. He complained in his diary that there was an increasing tendency to lie in bed until 5:30 in the morning.

If these words are true about John Wesley, and I believe they are, then he was quite a man. You can easily see why he accomplished much for Christ. Corrie Ten Boom said, "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" Preacher Phillips Brooks said, "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your task." Amen! Whatever God calls a person to do, it can be done with God's strength and we must ask Him for that strength.

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, June 3, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatrick,

 Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

No Evening Services.....

Monday, June 4

No Food Kitchen

Wednesday, June 6

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 9

Women's Bible Study...9:00 am

Sunday, June 10, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Gary Yarbrough, ? ? ? ?
John Lewis, Joseph Coats
Alternate: Ken Nice
Harvest America—6 pm

June 12– 13
SBC Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX

Wednesday, June 13
Prayer Warriors
Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 16
Women's Bible Study...9:00 am

Up-Coming Events.....

June 9 — Women's Bible Study

June 10 — Harvest America—6 pm, in the sanctuary

June 11-15 — Youth Camp Grand Oaks

June 17 — Father's Day

June 24 — Diversicare 5:30 pm

July 16-19— Children's Camp Grand Oaks

July 22-26 — Vacation Bible School

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will not have Sunday night services tonight at 6:30 pm. June 10 we will participate in the **Harvest America** simulcast at 6:00 pm. Don't miss it! Bring a friend!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30

pm and enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

- ♦ June 11-15
Youth Camp
- ♦ July 16-20
Children's Camp
- ♦ July 22-26
Vacation Bible School
- ♦ August 18
Men's Conference
Frederick Boulevard
Baptist Church

Dear Calvary Baptist Church,

-Thank you so much for the card, books and gift card.
God Bless,
Britney Griswold

-Thank you so much for your
donation through our carnation fundraiser. We appreciate this
opportunity to work with you.
God Bless,
Missouri Right to Life
Pony Express Chapter

Vacation Bible School

July 22-26
Mark your calendar!

Let Ellen know if you are willing to serve and what age group. Think
about who you can bring.

Congratulations to:
Dillon Burgess and Katie McIntosh on the birth of their baby boy,
Nehemiah Roscoe Lewis Burgess!
Born 5-31-18
7 lbs 10 oz,
21 inches long
8:56 am

For the Record-

Attendance: May 27, 2018

Sunday School..... 23

Visitors.....	0
Total.....	23
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	37
Sunday Night.....	36
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	8

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 849.14
Long Family - May...	\$ 60.00

Offering Received by Mail:

June Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

June Van Driver:

Mike Green
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

June Member Birthdays:

09... Sarah Waters
13... Desiree McDonald
14... Jessica Burgess
14... John Lewis
19....Jordan Lane
25... Martha Green
26... Pam Battreal
30... Randy Harr

June Anniversaries

John and Beverly Lewis
June 11, 1948

Jo and Elmer Mayse
June 27, 1981

Prayer Requests ...

Baby Nehemiah Burgess—and parents
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Mike Green—infection in knee
Larry McKahan—infection
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
Swymeler's Grandsons—kidney issues
Jessica Kirkpatrick and baby Levi
Donna and Bill Dunn—health

Joyce Cook—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Arlette Duty—strength
Gina Harr—strength
Don Beavers—heart and health
Curtis Conard—recovery
Emily Jones & baby Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...