John 15 â?? Part 22b

Description

In John 15:3 Jesus begins to piece the picture together by saying â??you have already been prunedâ?• or in the KJV â??you are already cleanâ?• â??because of the word or message I have already spoken to youâ?? Jesus is speaking here to the converted, his disciples. He is comforting and preparing his disciples for life on earth without him. He has already made it clear in John 15:1-2 that he is the vine and that every branch of his that is unprofitable is taken out by the father and destroyed and every fruitful branch is pruned in order to produce more fruit. So here in John 15:3 he assumes a point in time where the pruning process has taken place and he makes it very clear that in order for us to be fruitful we must remain in the vine and the vine must remain in us. As I have already pointed out a vine and itâ??s branch are virtually indistinguishable and Jesus is saying that one must remain in the other to produce fruit, which is obvious, but probably overlooked by most of us at some point in our lives, one without the other renders both useless for the purpose it was intended, that of producing fruit.

The point that Jesus is also making about the importance of remaining in the vine is that he knows that his ministry on earth has been divisive because he knows that essentially â??everything is spiritualâ?• and when a person starts from that perspective their life will be at odds with the world because it is so fundamentally different to the selfish, sinful nature of human desire that has been brought about by the fallen state of mankind, the state of man that Jesus came to restore to a right relationship to God the Father and creator of all. It is in the remaining or abiding in the vine that we find the true meaning of life. By ensuring that we remain in the vine, and as Jesus promises to remain in us by the power of the indwelling Spirit that has been given by the Father, we will produce fruit, fruit that will remain.

So Jesus is saying here, to his disciples and to anyone through the expanse of time, to those who have been made clean by the Word Jesus, (the Word that became flesh and lived among us John 1:14, the Word already spoken, the Word received and adopted) that life will work if we ABIDE IN THE VINE AND THE VINE ABIDES IN US, it is together that we work life out.

This production of fruit is all about remaining spiritual, it is not about how many souls we have influenced into accepting Christ or how many people have joined our church or how many missionaries we support, it is all about knowing Christ and him crucified and the power of his risen life intertwined and immersed into our innermost spiritual parts so that we are able to stand firm in a turbulent and unstable world knowing that life is safe and secure in the knowledge that the vine dresser is fully committed to tending his vine so that it produces good fruit for his table.

Jesusâ?? call to action in this chapter is not that we strive to produce fruit but that we abide in the vine and remain indistinguishably joined to the root so that we can testify to the ministry of Jesus and can know a place of security in a topsy turvy world.

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Category

1. Journey through John

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