




Pursuit:

- Do you believe that God wants to know you and be known by you? Do you believe that God wants a deep, personal, intimate relationship with you?
- Adam & Eve; Abraham; Jesus & his disciples; James 4:8
- God wants intimacy with you. You have to believe that, or you'll never pursue that. What does it mean to get close to God?


John 15:1-8


- John 15:1-8, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."



John 15:1-8


- John 15:1-8, "If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."






Pursuit:


- What does it mean to have an intimate relationship with God? To be close to God?
- Jesus likens it to the relationship of a vine and a branch. We are to remain in Him, he remains in us. We are in Christ, Christ is in us. This is what the ancients refer to as "divine union." It is intimacy with God, oneness. We are vitally connected to God. Intimacy with God is about cultivating this divine union. (vine-branches; body-head; marriage)






Pursuit:


- How do we draw near to God? How do we get to know Him intimately?
- REMAIN: Jesus says we must remain in Him, and He in us. v. 4, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you." v. 5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." v. 7, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (context) The key is the presence of God. (Brother Lawrence)






Pursuit:

- How do we draw near to God? How do we get to know Him intimately?
- PRUNING: Hardship & difficulty are part of life. But, in relationship with God, suffering is redemptive – it becomes pruning. (v.1-2, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”) (Mt 5:8) (Manny)









Pursuit:


- When we remain in Christ & undergo pruning, we will bear much fruit.






John 15:1-8

- v. 2, "He cuts off every branch in me that bears *no fruit*, while every branch that does bear *fruit* he prunes so that it will be even more *fruitful*."
- V. 4, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear *fruit* by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear *fruit* unless you remain in me."
- V.5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much *fruit*; apart from me you can do nothing."
- V. 7, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much *fruit*, showing yourselves to be my disciples."





Pursuit:

- When we have been pruned, and remain in Christ, we will bear much fruit.
- FRUIT: Fruit matters to God. It is a by-product of intimacy with Jesus. Jesus is the vine, he is the source of life, and fruit. The more Jesus' life flows in us, the more fruit we bear.
- Fruit brings glory to the Father. (v.7) What is the fruit? (fruit of the Vine)

