



Jesus

Lesson #10 Last Instructions

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He Means Business



**The struggle to heal and grow makes us
even stronger.**




Pruning?

- *Reasons to prune plants include deadwood removal, shaping (by controlling or directing growth), improving or maintaining health, reducing risk from falling branches, preparing nursery specimens for transplanting, and both harvesting and increasing the yield or quality of flowers and fruits. The practice entails targeted removal of diseased, damaged, dead, non-productive, structurally unsound, or otherwise unwanted tissue from crop and landscape plants. (from Wikipedia) I believe it would be accurate to say that pruning is not a once and done event, but a process that repeats.*
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Remain / Abide

- *8 Times in the first 6 verses of John 15 this word is used to describe our relationship to Jesus.*
 - *NT:3306 me/nw meno (men'-o); a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):*
 - *KJV - abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for),^x thine own.*
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Remain / Abide

- *There is no mystery here – Jesus invites us to stay close and if we do, we will be kept healthy by the Father and produce fruit.*
 - *John 15:4 No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. NIV*
 - *You can have good works without Christ, but you cannot produce fruit – there is a difference.*
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Remain / Abide

- *John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. NIV*
 - *Now we are back to asking and receiving – the best way to know what someone wants is to know them.*
 - *Get close to Jesus and stay close to Jesus - we will find ourselves asking for the things he wants.*
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When God is revealed, God is Glorified.

- ***John 15:8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. NIV***
- ***This is the highest form of service we have – to glorify (reveal) God.***
- ***Math 5:16 Let your light so shine that others will see your good works and glorify God.***





Fruit, More Fruit, Much Fruit

- *John speaks of a progression of fruit – fruit, more fruit, much fruit.*
- *If we observe nature we will see that apple trees produce their fruit as a natural by-product of what they are.*
- *They do not seem to work at it, they just grow up and it comes forth – a lesson for us?*





Fruit?

- *So what is the 'fruit' Jesus had in mind?*
- *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. NIV*
- *Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 1NIV*






Fruit?

- ***Colossians 1:6 All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. NIV***
- ***Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name. NIV***
- ***John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other. NIV***





Fruit?

- *Fruit is what a life produces –*
 - *Matthew 7:16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. NIV*
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Fruit?

- *Fruit is the inevitable result of a healthy life.*
- *Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord , and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. NIV*





Fruit?

- *We are certain the fruit we are to produce is character and there are also hints that fruit is converts.*
 - *Big question – can one have converts without fruit?*
 - *Bigger question – can one have fruit without converts?*
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Ever Feel Odd?

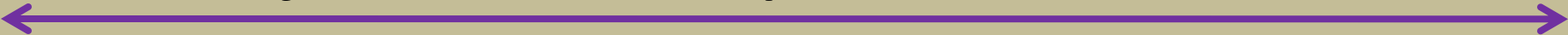
- ***John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates me hates my Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.' 26 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. NIV***





Ever Feel Odd?

- *If we take Jesus at his word here at the end of John 15 we could conclude that feeling like the “odd man out” should be our normal state.*
- *We are far more likely to feel like a fish out of water on the job, at a community event, and sometimes at family holiday gatherings, than we are likely to feel comfortable.*
- *We are often the living walking among the dead – feeling a little ‘left out’ is too be expected.*





Ever Feel Odd?


- *My biggest challenge and concern is not dealing with the feelings of being left out – my biggest challenge is how do I fit in enough to relate?*
- *One risk is criticism from the unsaved – “you are holier than thou”.*
- *Another risk is criticism from the church – “you are a compromiser”.*





What do you think?

*If a younger Christian were to ask you
“how do you deal with being the odd
duck in so many situations?” – what
would you say?*





Questions

