



Pruned For God's Glory

John 15:1-5

The Gardener and the Vine

- To allow anyone to speak truth into our lives, we must know that person is completely trustworthy.
- Jesus is the Vine through whom all spiritual life flows.
- While Jesus is the source of spiritual life, God's role is equally essential.
- God is the Gardener who lovingly prunes our words, thoughts, and actions to make us even more fruitful.

The Pain and the Promise

- Spiritual growth requires the pruning hand of God.
- God knows that even though self-control is a gift of the Holy Spirit, we often lack it in practice.
- God prunes us through discipline.
- God does not punish us for every sin.
- God disciplines not to destroy, but to remove what glorifies the flesh and restore us to fruitfulness in Him.

The Purpose of Pruning

- To the untrained eye, pruning looks like loss.
- Not everything good is God's best.
- We must trust when God prunes our lives, even when it does not make sense.
- Even when the pruning is painful or confusing, we must obey and rejoice.
- In God's loving hands, there is deep intimacy, amazing grace, and an abundance of fruit yet to come.

Abiding in the Vine

- While God's pruning prepares us for growth, it is our union with Christ that brings growth to life.
- By Jesus' power, we can say no to the flesh and choose to live lives marked by holiness.
- The key to bearing much fruit is Christ's life in us.
- We must abide in Christ if we are to bear fruit.

Trust the Gardener

- We must learn to trust the Gardener, whose wisdom is infinite and whose hands never make a mistake.
- Who is more qualified to prune the sinful and unfruitful parts of our lives than the One who formed us in the womb.
- We must trust the Gardener with the parts of our lives we cannot control.
- Although God's pruning may be painful, it is always an act of grace and mercy.

Conclusion

- We have but one life to live.
- God calls us to a life rooted in Christ, pruned by the Father, and filled with fruit that lasts.
- Pruning is painful, but the reward is worth it.
- If the Father is pruning you, rejoice because He sees more in you than you see in yourself.
- In God's hands, our lives will not only grow, they will be pruned for His glory, and flourish for our eternal good.