

# 24 MAR 2017 LENT CONTEMPLATION

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Jesus	Desires	Fruitfulnes	ss (John 1	15:1-8)		

- 1. Key Verse (John 15:5): "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."
- 2. Finding Fruitfulness in Christ
  - a. Jesus is the True Vine the life-source of all blessings (v1, Eph 1:3)
  - b. The Father's role as the Gardener (v2)
  - c. The Fruitful Branch is constantly pruned for greater fruitfulness (v2-3)
  - d. The Fruitful Branch must remain in the Vine (v5)
- 3. The Blessings of Remaining (Abiding) in Christ
  - a. Becoming highly fruitful (v5)
    - i. Action fruits
    - ii. Attribute fruit of Christ-like character (Gal 5:22)
  - b. Experiencing answered prayers (v7)
  - c. Bringing joy and glory to God (v8)

## 4. How Can I Practically Abide in Christ?

- a. By submitting to Jesus' Lordship (v5, 2)
- b. By fully resting in His love (v9)
- c. By obeying His Word (v10, 14, 1 John 3:24)
- d. By living free from habitual sins (1 John 3:6)
- e. By walking with the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:13, Gal 5:16)

#### 5. OUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL CONTEMPLATION

- a. Meditate on this astounding promise Jesus made to this disciples (v7).
  - i. What are the two conditions for answered prayer?
  - ii. What are one or two of God's most cherished unfulfilled rhema ever given to you? Are these promises, convictions, or prophetic utterances still remaining in your heart today? If they are not, how can you bring them back into your heart once again?
  - iii. Do you long for these rhema to come to pass in your life? What are the actions you can take for Jesus to bring these rhema into fulfillment?

## b. Take Home Ouestion

The Father prunes us so we can bear even more fruits (v2). Sometimes, He allows personal setbacks, financial losses, illnesses, relationship difficulties, or even world events to shake our world in order to draw us closer to Him and mould our character. Often, the pruning process may seem unsettling and painful, but God always ensures it is for our good (Heb 12:6, 10-11).

- i. Are you presently facing some personal challenges? How are you responding to them?
- ii. Do you see God's hand at work in your times of troubles?
- iii. How can you co-operate with God in allowing your present challenges to deepen your walk with Him, so that you can become even more fruitful?
- iv. Spend some moments to wrestle these matters with the Lord.

### 6. OUESTIONS FOR CELL DISCUSSION

- a. What is one truth that the Lord spoke to you this evening or this week?
- b. What are you going to do about it?
- c. How can you encourage each other to abide daily in Christ, and to pray for your rhema to come to pass?
- d. Share and pray for each other.