11/10/2019 | "WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?" | WEEK 7

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LISTEN TO THE SERMON HERE

John 16:1-8: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 6 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. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Summary: God designed us that we would be unable to thrive and produce fruit apart from intimacy with God as our source. If Jesus is our greatest source of identity, our lives will be fruitful for His sake.

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION FOR YOU & YOUR VILLAGE

(John 15:1-8): Have you ever had a garden? A houseplant? What does it take to cultivate — or at least not kill — a healthy, fruitful plant?

(John 15:2 & 15:6, Isaiah 5:1-7): How does "pruning" help a garden to flourish? What do you think is the significance of the vineyard in Isaiah going unpruned, while Jesus describes a relentless pruning away of fruitless branches?

(John 15:1, 3-5, 7-8): We don't often use the word "abide". What does it mean to "abide" in something? How do you practice "abiding" in Jesus?

(John 15:8, Galatians 5:22-23): Identify one fruit of the Spirit that you want to grow in your life? How can your Village support this growth?

APPLICATION (NEXT STEP THIS WEEK)

1.) Abide in Him by serving our neighbors in need alongside our friends at the Collective. On Nov 24th, we will host our 2nd Winter Warmth Coat Lunch to help our currently homeless neighbors. Go to bit.ly/Coatlunch to sign up.