

Study Guide for John 15:1-4

The sermons in this series are all from texts found in the Gospel of John. John said this was written “so that you believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

***When you read this passage from John 15, what things do you notice about Jesus? What kind of life does He expect from us?**

In this passage, Jesus was teaching the disciples and declared “*I am the True Vine...*”. **Why do you think it was important for Him to make this distinction? Why do some people have trouble using an absolute phrase like “I am THE...”? How should Believers handle it when non-believers question this?**

In today’s sermon, Pastor Mike talks with us about being connected to Christ. He starts off by making the point that when this happens, we see God’s work. He told a story about driving on a road trip, and drank a Red Bull to stay awake...and failed. At one point, he was up and awake; soon, though, he crashed!

***Have you ever had a time where your faith was strong, and then it became weak? What does Jesus say we should do to avoid this? How does our connection with Him help us?**

In v.2, Jesus warned that we could be “*cut off*” if we bear no fruit, and then He tells us our lives WILL BE “*pruned*” to become more fruitful.

***What do you think He meant by those two phrases? What would your life look like if you were to become more fruitful?**

In his second point (We hear God’s Word, v.3), Pastor Mike challenged us to hear God’s word. He told about a recent time where he forgot to bring pants to church on Baptism Day, and used this to tell about things the disciples would forget once Jesus was gone. Jesus knew they needed to be reminded that they were “*already clean*” (v.3). ***When was a time that God’s Word reminded you of who He is and how He feels about you? How has that brought about a cleansing work in your life?**

In his book *The Divine Conspiracy*, Dallas Willard once wrote “*His Words (left to us in Scripture) provide all we need about how to conduct our affairs*”. ***How does it help you to know that He still speaks through His Word? What adjustments is He asking you to make in your faith? In your family? In your finances? In how you forgive others?**

When we get connected to Christ, He brings growth in us and, eventually, we become God’s witness (the final point of the sermon). This occurs when we remain in Him, and He remains in us. ***What results will people see in you when you maintain a stable/vital relationship with Him?**

Pastor Mike also told a story about being a witness to a wreck. When being interviewed, it didn’t matter how many Christian words he spoke or what Christian shirt he wore or what Christian music was playing...they only wanted to hear him tell his story. Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus challenged the disciples to think like this. Read Acts 1:8 and think about all the places He told them to go. ***Take time to think about and discuss where those areas might be for you – where is “your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth”? If people asked you to be a witness for Jesus, what story would you tell them?**

***The goal of our faith is to get connected with Christ and remain there. What steps do you need to take for this to happen in your life this week?**

Resources:

1. The Book of John – Use whatever translation you are comfortable with, and then read the whole book of John. This will help find out who Jesus is.
2. *The Divine Conspiracy* – Dallas Willard
<https://www.amazon.com/Divine-Conspiracy-Rediscovering-Hidden-Life/dp/0060693339>
3. *Jesus: The Greatest life of all* – Charles R. Swindoll
<https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Greatest-Life-Great-Lives/dp/1400202582>
4. *Andrew Murray on Prayer* – Andrew Murray
https://www.amazon.com/s?k=andrew+murray+on+prayer&hvadid=409999073945&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9012188&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=17883711511352570376&hvtargid=kwd-618438215&hydadcr=24631_11410056&tag=googhydr-20&ref=pd_sl_f7i0hyf0i_e