



SERMON OUTLINE MAY 3, 2015

“Our Father, The Vinedresser”

John 15:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

My grandfather . . . the loving, patient gardener

I. JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

- A. True: authentic, enduring, perfect (15:1)
- B. All other “vines” we ‘graft’ ourselves into will let us down
- C. Jesus the true vine came to give us true life (Isaiah 53:2)

II. THE FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER/GARDENER

- A. He “lifts up: the branches so they can be closer to the sun (15:2)
- B. He does the same for us so we can be closer to Him
- C. He prunes/cleanses the branches so they can be fruitful (15:2)
- D. He does the same for us so we, free from sin & life’s excesses, can be fruitful

III. WHEN WE ARE PRUNED/CLEANSSED IT CAN BE UNCOMFORTABLE OR PAINFUL

- A. *The story of the immigrant family on the train & the action of the conductor*
- B. The Father’s pruning is always from His love and for our good
- C. We may not understand it immediately, but we will eventually

IV. WE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE LIFTED UP and WE ARE PRUNED BY OUR VINEDRESSER

- A. Being pruned is the work of God’s Law
- B. Being lifted up is the work of the Gospel
- C. Both are done so we branches can **abide in Jesus** the true vine & bear fruit (15:4-5)
- D. And here’s some great news: Jesus chooses to **abide in us** that His life & power can be in us & flow from us (15:5; 14:20,23)
- E. Jesus the vine living in us His branches, gives us a new life & brand new heart (Ezekiel 11:19)

CONCLUSION: *January 2, 1968: a brand new heart [transplant]*