

## ***Lots and Lots of Fruit!***

John 15:1-8

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Jesus wants our lives to bear fruit. 15:4
2. Jesus wants our lives to bear much fruit. 15:5, 8.
3. Jesus wants our lives to bear fruit that will last 15:16



### **I. God has always intended that our lives should have meaning and purpose**

*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."* Genesis 2:15

### **II. God intended for Israel to share in God's mission to the world.**

*All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.* Genesis 12:3b.

*"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a **light** for the Gentiles..."* Isaiah 42:6

*What more could have been done for my **vineyard** than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?* Isaiah 5:4

### **III. Jesus claims that it is only through Him that we can bear fruit.**

- A. Jesus repeatedly claims to be God

In Exodus 3 God revealed His Name to Moses as I Am who I Am. Exodus 3:14.

Jesus claimed this name for himself in the Gospel of John. When Jesus says, I Am the bread of life, I Am the good Shepherd, or I am the true vine, Jesus is literally saying that He is the I Am of the Old Testament

- B. Our lives have meaning only in relationship with Jesus

### **III. The command of Jesus is simple, abide in me**

- A. Abiding in Christ starts with pursuing intimacy with Christ

*"Be still, and know that I am God."* Psalm 46:10.

*"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* Jeremiah 29:13.

- B. Accept pruning. 15:2

1. God will prune our lives in areas of disobedience.
2. God will prune our lives of distractions

### **The crowded life inevitably crowds God out.**

### **Conclusion: Three Steps to Fruitfulness**

#### **Step 1.** Invite God daily to search your heart

*"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* Psalm 139:23-24

#### **Step 2.** Spend time daily with God

#### **Step 3.** Make room for what matters most.

*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were*

*astonished and they took note that these men had **been with Jesus**. Acts 4:13.*