

John 15:1-5, 8

✚ In pruning, we are not cutting away a cancerous growth, but taking away otherwise healthy growth making room for intended growth.

✚ In a vineyard, a vinedresser Prunes for 4 specific reasons:

- 1) to remove what is dead or dying,
 - 2) to make sure sunlight can get to all branches,
 - 3) to increase size and quality of the fruit,
 - 4) to encourage new fruit to develop.
-

✚ Why does a vinedresser prune? **"Because if the vine is not pruned it reverts very quickly to its wild nature."**

- 1) Climbing everywhere making a long, sinewy trunk
 - 2) Resulting in small, scraggly bunches of uneven grapes.
- ✓ Is this you? All over the place, untrained, unfruitful.
 - ✓ Vines last a very long time, but branches have a very short lifespan.
 - ✓ Branches basically have one season to produce and then it's over, they die back and are removed to make way for new branches in the next season.
 - ✓ Likewise, we just have one life, no time to just ramble all over the place, grow in any direction we want or would like.
 - ✓ Are you certain you are where God wants you to be? Are you certain you are doing what God wants you to do?
 - ✓ Our Father, the ultimate Vinedresser, is guided certain principles: To make room for the kind of abundance He created us for, He will cut away parts of our lives that drain precious time and energy from what's truly important.
-

✚ **You have been commissioned by your Lord to manage a single asset of His: YOUR LIFE**

- ✓ Your Life: The sum of your talents, strengths, personality, opportunity, and material possessions.
 - ✓ Your Lord will return, and you will give an account for how you spent His asset
 - ✓ Therefore, every day you should be asking yourself this question: **"How will I manage what My Lord has placed into my care?"**
 - ✓ **In fact, every day you are answering that question!!!**
 - ✓ One Goal for our lives = bearing fruit
 - ✓ One Purpose = Bringing glory to God, Verse 8
 - ✓ One Way = Verse 5.
 - ✓ One goal, purpose, and way for our lives, but our world pushes us into fragmented and misdirected directions.
-
-

Luke 9: If You Want to Follow Jesus, Part 8

- ✓ Resulting in little effort or energy put towards fruit bearing.
- ✓ When we cry out to God to help us live a life that matters, He prunes us removing those preoccupations and priorities that keep us from a more significant ministry for Him.

✎ We've got choices to make:

- 1) Trust our eternity to the only one who can bring us to God.
- 2) Make fruit bearing the goal of our lives.
- 3) Allow God to make room in our lives for more and more fruit.
