

## Jesus' "I Am" Sayings – Lesson 29

In **John 15** we have learned that we have been relationally joined to Jesus in order to be His fruit bearing ...branches...

Then in **v. 8**, Jesus explains God's purpose:

*In this [way] is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples...*

Our question this morning is:

How does God cause us to ...bear much fruit...?

In **v. 1-2** Jesus tells us:

*...My Father is the vinedresser... 2 every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit...*

This morning we will begin to answer these five questions:

- [1] What is the meaning of prunes?
- [2] What is God's motive in pruning us?
- [3] Why do we need to be pruned?
- [4] How does God prune us?
- [5] What is the final effect of pruning?

I will 1st give us a picture of pruning and then I will answer each question.

Let's consider the example of a potter who wanted to express his love for his son by forming a vessel that will honor His beloved son

1. He began with a lump of unformed clay
2. He put the clay on the wheel and began to form it into a vessel that would honor his son
3. He used water and [internal and external] pressure to form the clay into a usable vessel that accomplished his intention

The question is:

What two things are happening at the same time?

This is a picture of how God lovingly prunes us.

[1] What is the meaning of prunes?

Pruning has to do with cleansing or the removal of any impurity that inhibits the growth and development of the fruit of Jesus' Life in us.

Let's look at **John 13:1-11** where we have an example of the meaning of pruning.

In this passage, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples as a symbol of the work of the Holy Spirit of cleansing us from the pollution of our sin.

**Titus 3:5** ... *[God] saved us...by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit...*

Then in **v. 10** Jesus explained that they are *...completely clean...*

The word Jesus uses for *...clean...* is the Greek word *katharos* which is translated as *prunes* in **John 15:2**

*...every branch that bears fruit [the Father] prunes...*

Because Jesus uses the word prune as a verb, He is emphasizing the ongoing work of God to keep their *...feet...* clean from becoming dirty with sin.

Next week we will proceed to the next questions.