



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT...

Crossroads Church - 3 year campaign to end thirst

SOAP READING—March 6, 2010

Phil Print—Senior Pastor

S: John 15:1-15

John 15:5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

O: Jesus is pretty blunt in this passage—he expects our lives to “bear fruit.” He expects us to “make ripples.” And he talks about the need for both “pruning” (cutting away whatever it is that keeps us from God and living out His purpose in our lives) and “remaining” (staying close to Him...having a vital connection with Him) in our lives. Bottom line: we can’t do anything that has eternal impact on our own. Just like a grape branch has to abide in the grapevine to bear grapes, so we must spend time with God. We must allow the Gardener (God) to work IN us so that something good happens THROUGH us.

A: If you’re like me, you’ve learned to do certain things all by yourself. From an early age we’re applauded for taking the initiative and “pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps.” Sounds good...on paper. But when it comes to making ripples or bearing fruit for God, it’s bogus. I need *linger time* with God. Time to allow His Spirit to prune me and speak into my life.

P: “Jesus, take this branch (my life) and bear fruit. Bear the kind of fruit that my neighbors, friends, co-workers, and fellow students need to see. Prune what needs to be pruned so that you can do an amazing work in me and through me. I declare today my total dependence on YOU. Amen.”