

St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2024! Leading to Worship Sunday, October 13, 2024

Reading: John 15:1-8; [Isaiah 5:1-7]

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! EBC also has a video component on the St. John's website and St. John's You Tube channel. This week we continue St. John's series on Growing in Generosity, exploring how we commit to "abide in Jesus!" Click here:

<https://youtu.be/qXvDBB3QAKY> Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

Three Points

- In this week's reading from John, Jesus describes himself as the vine, and we as the branches. The imagery reaches back to the songs of the prophets, and in particular an ancient song in which an unfruitful vineyard is destroyed. At the end of the song, though, it is clear that Isaiah is talking about God's people in Israel. (Isaiah 5:7)
- Jesus keeps the imagery of withering, unfruitful branches, but there is a huge difference! Jesus is not the owner of the vineyard, he is the vine! We are branches. And we are already clean from Jesus Word! Jesus tells us that if we abide in him, he abides in us, and we bear much fruit.
- "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15:8)

Two Questions

- Can you see how big a difference there is from Isaiah's words to Jesus' words in John's? In Isaiah, God is the grower, giving vines what they need, but receiving back a failing crop. In John, Jesus is right there with us being the vine from which we grow. In what ways do you picture being connected to Jesus in your service to God and others?
- How does this passage help us grow in generosity? Do you give because of the "threat" that God will destroy the "vineyard?" Do you give because our giving is aided by Jesus? Do you give *with* Jesus beside you, helping you bear fruit?

Action Step

- Be brave and joyous in your giving this week! Jesus is right there with you, living in you, encouraging you, and helping you bear fruit to glorify God!

Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!