

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024  
BULLETIN ISSUE #38



## SERMON OUTLINE

## JESUS AS THE TRUE VINE

JOHN 15:1-17 | ELDER RAYMUND SANCHEZ

In our last sermon we came to understand Jesus as the one who sends the Holy Spirit and He shared an essential part of His farewell discourse with His disciples. He gave profound teachings about their relationship with the world and the Holy Spirit's role in their lives.

Today, we take a look at John 15:1-17 which moves into an agrarian mode by focusing on vines and the vine grower or gardener.

Jesus is the true vine. The Father is the gardener who prunes the vine, cutting off the fruitless and pruning the fruitful branches so they produce even more fruit.

The disciples were exhorted to remain in the vine. Without

Jesus we can do nothing. If we do not remain in Him, we will be thrown away. But if we remain in Him, we can ask for anything, and it will be granted to us. We are the branches. Our ability to bear fruit for Him depends on our commitment to Christ. We must remain in Him. What does it mean to remain in Him? This is about an abiding relationship. We pursue Him in order to be with Him, not for what He can do for us. We seek to go deeper in Him because we love Him. We bring Him into every facet of our lives, because He is the source of our life.

When we abide in Christ, we do not have to strive to bear fruit for Him. A grape vine does not worry about how to make grapes. This is in its nature.

Our Father is the gardener. When He sees that something is awry in our lives, He proceeds to fix it. We are not responsible for it all.

When I surrender my heart to the Lord, I give Him permission to take out of my life everything that hinders the relationship. This is called pruning, and sometimes it hurts. We trust that He knows what He is doing, and that He will make us fruitful. We must remain in Jesus' love. Then our joy will overflow.

The purpose of this sermon is to learn how to abide, so that your joy may be in Him and that your joy may be complete. ✨

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

T. KAREN MONROY

The Great *Shema* confession in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is the fundamental truth that God is One (v. 4) and the response that God requires from man is love (v. 5). Verses 6 to 9 express how Israel is to love and obey God. The passage puts to the front the primary truth that the *home is where children should know about God*. When properly accomplished, this ensures a spiritual legacy from one generation to the other. Thus, it is vital that the people of God not only remember their experience but also to pass on the memory to their children. God commands parents to take on the primary responsibility for inculcating biblical truth in the lives of their children as well as to cultivate and preserve confidence in God for all generations (Eph. 6:1-4; Ps. 78).

The family is the basic social unit of society and God's model of community. It is sustained by the providence of God and created for the glory of God. Scripture teaches us that God ordained the headship of Adam over Eve (Gen. 1:27, 2:18-23) and

the family. As the head, the *father's primary role is to teach and personally model absolute obedience to Yahweh* (Exo. 12:26-27, 13:6; Deut. 4:9, 6:7, 20, 32:7; Ps. 78:5-7). *Mothers are designed to be the helpmate and wife* just as Eve whom God created for Adam (Gen. 2:18, 20, 23). She is the main caretaker in her home (Pro. 31). *With such distinct roles, parenting remains a joint responsibility of both mothers and fathers* (Pro. 1:8; 6:20).

As we continue to celebrate family month, we pray that this truth will not only be remembered but likewise be engraved in our hearts. Spiritual leadership in the home is crucial and vital in the discipleship of our families. At the same time, it is also good to remember that the impact that it will create will transcend our homes as it can and will also influence our church, community and country.

It is our desire and prayer that every household will be intentional in their family discipleship and will have a spiritual leader who will cause his family to draw closer in knowledge and in their love

of God. May every parent in GCF South Metro choose to embrace the call of discipling their family.

### Honor your Father and Mother

The role of the parents is to disciple their children as discipleship primarily happens at home. However, children also have a crucial role and that is to honor their father and mother. The Bible is very clear when it comes to this as the phrase, "Honor your Father and Mother", is mentioned twice in the Old Testament (Exo. 20:12; Deut. 5:16) and six times in the New Testament (Matt. 15:4, 19:19; Mark 7:10, 10:19; Luke 18:20; Eph. 6:2).

### Blessing the Family and Family Potbless

We are inviting you to take part in the "Blessing the Family" that will take place during our worship service on September 29. This is a great opportunity to intentionally pray and lift our families to the Lord. Details and instructions are available at the Family booth outside the Worship Hall. ✨

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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