

John 15:1-11

5/11/25

What’s the best human experience? Ice-cream? Its Biblical. God promises a land flowing with milk and honey. Sounds like ice-cream to me. What’s the best human experience? Electricity? For those of us who were without electricity, electricity is up there as one of the best human experiences. What’s the best human experience? First kiss? Or maybe being young? There are many firsts. However, there is plenty of anxiety with firsts. I much prefer preaching now, then when I was learning. I much prefer riding a motorcycle now, then when I was first learning. What’s the best human experience? Motherhood? Parenthood? But what if you are not called by God to be a parent?

What is the one thing that all humans can do to experience the best human experience?

Let’s hear what Jesus believes is the best human experience in John 15:12-17.

The last few years I have been attempting to cultivate an orchard. I have cherry, apple, pear, plum and peach trees planted. If I can protect them from the deer this summer and fall, next year they will flourish. One of the scariest but most important activities is pruning the trees. I say scariest, because I don’t really know what I am doing and to prune correctly, you must cut off a lot. It always seems cutting off is going to hurt the tree, but in fact, when you prune in the winter it grows even more vigorously. They flourish.

Let’s say a tree has 100 branches. It only has so much energy to use. If you cut back 30 of the branches, now the tree has more energy for the 70 branches than it does for 100 branches.

Think about your own life. You have limited time and energy. Prayerfully consider what you need to cut-back to give more energy to the things that bear fruit! Jesus teaches, “Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit.” -John 15:2

Yes, when pruning you cut-off dead branches, but the strange thing is, you also cut-back the branches that are your best fruit producers so the next season they produce even more. Jesus teaches, “Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit.” -John 15:2

You can’t do it all nor should you! But what’s the best human experience?

Be rooted in Jesus! “Live in me as I live in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it lives in the vine, neither can you unless you live in me.” -John 15:4 But what does it mean to live in Jesus? Look to John 15:7, “If you live in me, and my words live in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

Live in Jesus’ Words. What are your favorite teachings of Jesus? I’ll give you a moment to think about Jesus’ teachings. Please blurt some out. I was messing around with A.I. and typed in

“What are your favorite teachings of Jesus?” Here is what A.I. generated: 1) Love. Matthew 22:27-29 “Love the Lord your God.” “Love your neighbor.” Jesus also emphasizes love for enemies. “Love your enemies, and pray for those who hurt you.” -Matthew 5:44 2) Jesus stresses freely forgiving others. Forgive, as Your Heavenly Father has forgiven you. -Matthew 6:14 “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” -Luke 23:34 3) Faith. Jesus teaches faith in Jesus and God’s plan is crucial for salvation and living a meaningful life. “For God so loves the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” -John 3:16 4) The Kingdom of God. A spiritual realm where God’s will is done on earth as it is in Heaven. 5) Repentance. A turning from our sins and turning to forgiveness with God.

Turn the other cheek. Give the shirt off your back. Go the extra mile. Jesus is asking us today, to recite His Words! Memorize Jesus’ Words! Hang them on your wall! Practice them! Teach them to your children. Live into Jesus’ Words!

What’s the best human experience? To lay down one’s life for one’s friends. Go and bear fruit. Fruit that will last!

Love,
Pastor Curtis

SERMON NOTES

“Live in Jesus”

- I. Pruning: Are you actively reflecting upon your life to see what needs cut off in order to grow in Jesus? - John 15:2
- A. You can’t do it all, nor should you try! Name and focus on the best human experience.
 - II. Be rooted in Jesus. What are your favorite teachings of Jesus? Recite them! Memorize them! Practice them! Live into them! -John 15:7
 - II. What’s the best human experience? Live in Jesus: friendship. -John 15:13-15