

ABOVE AVERAGE

Above Average - Plastic Fruit - February 15

Introduction

Jesus said that He came to bring a life to His followers that was anything but average. In fact, Jesus said that the life He brings is exceedingly over and above the average and if we are not experiencing this life then we have been robbed of what He gave us. The good news is that Jesus never runs out of what He gives and can restore anything that was lost. When we remain in Him we receive a continual supply of the above average life.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some good things you doing or have done? Why do you consider these things to be good?
2. Read [John 15:1-5](#). In the analogy of the vineyard, what does Jesus say He is? What does Jesus say God the Father is? What does Jesus say we are? What do you think Jesus is trying to say about our relationship with Him in these descriptions?
3. In the message Jon said: Rejection is the Vinedresser's (God's) protection. Talk about a time in your life when someone rejected you and you later discovered that if they would not have done so, their continued presence would have hindered or hurt your own progress.
4. In [John 15:5](#), what does Jesus say abiding in Him produces in our life? According to [Galatians 5:22-23](#) what does this mean will be produced in your life?
5. In [John 15:5](#) what does Jesus we can do apart from Him? What do you think He means by this?
6. In the message Jon said: "We can do a lot of good things but if they are not things produced from the Vine (Jesus), they are NOTHING." Talk about a time in your life when you did something "good" but it was done in your effort? According to this statement from Jon, this good you did is worth "NOTHING" in eternity. How does this make you feel? What are your thoughts about it?
7. Please share with the group one area of your life that you know is stuck in the "average" category and you would like to see God bring His supernatural healing or restoration to make it Above Average. How can this group help you seek God in this matter?

Moving Forward

Many of us have been doing a lot of good things... We have helped in the community, we are friendly, we have started businesses, we have gone to marriage seminars, read relationship books, gotten therapy, sat through many church lectures, have been doing a bunch of churchy things, have gotten a long list of good things to "do" and have been doing our best to "do" everything on the list but have failed to BE a BRANCH; the one thing that we were meant to be that guarantees the lasting fruit of abundance. We must remember that *When we do before we be, it's like expecting fruit without the tree.* Many of us right now need to relook at our schedules and evaluate what in our life is being produced from us and what is being produced from the Vine (Jesus). It's no wonder that so many of us are not living above average! We have a bunch fake fruit, *Plastic Fruit*, in our life that is not coming from the vine or a tree. It's just fruit we have manufactured in our own efforts and our own strength; and were left wondering why our joy is not remaining, our forgiveness is not over-flowing, our love is not extraordinary, our patience is not supernatural, etc.

The beginning place for us to begin claiming back the abundant life is in realizing that our efforts are never going to produce anything but what is common or average to mankind. If we are going to live the above average life, it has to be lived in and through Christ.

Changing Your Mind - Commit this to memory

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." - Jesus [John 15:5 \(ESV\)](#)