



THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE
Steven Furtick

JOHN 15:2

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

_____ **AND** _____
ARE INSEPRABLE

GENESIS 1:22

God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.

PSALM 1

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

CUT _____ **NOT CUT** _____

HEBREWS 10:37

In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay

NEHEMIAH 6:3

so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?”

_____ **YOUR** _____

If God is on your side, then time is too

BLANKS: FRUITFUL, FAITHFULNESS, BACK, OFF, PRUNE, PRIORITY

vision **TEACHING NOTES**



THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE
PASTOR STEVEN FURTICK
NOVEMBER 7&8, 2015

1. STEP BACK FOR A TRUE LIFE VIEW

One of the challenges of delivering a message like this is that it carries a reality check. It contains truth that some of us don't want to hear. I don't preach just like Pastor Furtick but I have had the experience of teaching that life is tough. It often is a struggle. It is challenging and painful. And this point comes up often. My hope is always that we are willing to see life for how it really is. But living life with unrealistic expectations leads to repetitive disappointment. It isn't pessimistic, it's just real. Real is better.

2. THE PURPOSE COMES WITH COMMITMENT

One of the most encouraging points of today's teaching is realizing that hardship in our life can have a purpose. Pastor Steven was quite happy with his last-minute phrasing – “Life cuts us off but God holds the scissors.” Every bad thing that happens to us isn't God's intended action, but He will “prune” us through every bad thing. He makes the cuts productive if...IF...we are in a committed relationship with Him. Otherwise it is just hardship. We still have the pain but without any productive fruit.

3. SO MAKE IT COUNT

Last week our granddaughter Charlotte was “eating” Chili in her high chair. It was everywhere. Leslie said, “Charlotte, you're a hot mess”. Nobody expects a one-year-old to do well with a bowl of chili but in life, when we are experiencing the challenges, conflicts, setbacks and inevitable uphill realities, we can either be a mess or we can decide to get ahead of it. One of Pastor Steven's points (probably my favorite) was to decide to align ourselves with the few things that are absolutely key for us to do. Many of us are so over-involved, spread so thin, so disorganized that when a crisis comes or even a small challenge, it throws us into a hot mess. By streamlining and organizing your life in general, we put ourselves in a position to be much more efficient and productively pruned. Are you over-committed? Undisciplined? Unorganized? Ouch. Preachin' to myself.

vision **TEACHING NOTES**



THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE
Steven Furtick

JOHN 15:2

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

_____ **AND** _____
ARE INSEPRABLE

GENESIS 1:22

God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.

PSALM 1

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

CUT _____ **NOT CUT** _____

HEBREWS 10:37

In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay

NEHEMIAH 6:3

so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?”

_____ **YOUR** _____

If God is on your side, then time is too

BLANKS: FRUITFUL, FAITHFULNESS, BACK, OFF, PRUNE, PRIORITY

vision **TEACHING NOTES**

vision **TEACHING NOTES**



THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE
PASTOR STEVEN FURTICK
NOVEMBER 7&8, 2015

1. STEP BACK FOR A TRUE LIFE VIEW

One of the challenges of delivering a message like this is that it carries a reality check. It contains truth that some of us don't want to hear. I don't preach just like Pastor Furtick but I have had the experience of teaching that life is tough. It often is a struggle. It is challenging and painful. And this point comes up often. My hope is always that we are willing to see life for how it really is. But living life with unrealistic expectations leads to repetitive disappointment. It isn't pessimistic, it's just real. Real is better.

2. THE PURPOSE COMES WITH COMMITMENT

One of the most encouraging points of today's teaching is realizing that hardship in our life can have a purpose. Pastor Steven was quite happy with his last-minute phrasing – “Life cuts us off but God holds the scissors.” Every bad thing that happens to us isn't God's intended action, but He will “prune” us through every bad thing. He makes the cuts productive if...IF...we are in a committed relationship with Him. Otherwise it is just hardship. We still have the pain but without any productive fruit.

3. SO MAKE IT COUNT

Last week our granddaughter Charlotte was “eating” Chili in her high chair. It was everywhere. Leslie said, “Charlotte, you're a hot mess”. Nobody expects a one-year-old to do well with a bowl of chili but in life, when we are experiencing the challenges, conflicts, setbacks and inevitable uphill realities, we can either be a mess or we can decide to get ahead of it. One of Pastor Steven's points (probably my favorite) was to decide to align ourselves with the few things that are absolutely key for us to do. Many of us are so over-involved, spread so thin, so disorganized that when a crisis comes or even a small challenge, it throws us into a hot mess. By streamlining and organizing your life in general, we put ourselves in a position to be much more efficient and productively pruned. Are you over-committed? Undisciplined? Unorganized? Ouch. Preachin' to myself.