

# Sermon Notes

## The True Vine Part 4

### March 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- **The True Vine**
  - **Recap: John 15:1-8**
    - Reach Up: Get connected and remain in the true vine!
    - Rise Up: The pruning process, Rise Up in love, going from servant to friend of Jesus.
    - Reach Out: God expects productivity, and that's where the fun is!
- **Part 4: Branches Bearing Fruit Together!**
  - Empowerment Model.
    - Traditional, Relational, Attractional, Empowerment Models.
      - Good ministry has all 4, but also has an emphasis. Ours is Empowerment.
  - What is going to bring a new spiritual awakening to our land? Bring Jesus to the hurting?
  - It's when each of us start to reach our potential in Christ and begin making a real difference, and we do this together!
- The New Testament Model: **Ephesians 4:11-16**
  - There are leaders with various functions. They prepare the people to serve.
  - This brings unity of purpose and strength as we all work together.
    - No long blown here and there, but becoming Christ like, mature and working together.
- Good Hope Strategy for bringing this about: Discipleship Pathway
  - Working on making this more user friendly (Find your Peace, Find your People, Find your Purpose)
    - But, today: pre-evangelism, evangelism, care, discipleship, involvement, advancement.
  - What a picture! All of us working together to help each other and bring Jesus to the world!
- What does it look like when this isn't working?
  - Division and infighting. Weak ineffective Christians.
  - Getting the structure backwards. (We pay the pastor to do the work.)
- Old Testament Example: **Exodus 18:7-27**
  - The upside-down pyramid from Dave Williams
  - Not just about Moses getting help, this is where the fun is from last time!
    - Tim Hawkins "Servant's Heart" joke.
    - This isn't about you doing someone else's work, but you finding yourself and getting to do that!
- How do you find your calling??
  - Pastor Larry sermon years ago: God's call on your life is primarily about your character, and secondarily about spiritual gifts and what you do with them.
  - That being said, how do you find your spiritual gifts and your role?
    - What are you good at/what do you enjoy?
    - What do you notice?
    - What makes you angry?
  - If we all connect with God, grow in our faith, and make a difference...together!!, we will see God doing amazing things.
  - It's Palm Sunday – Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem to start Holy Week.
    - What prepared the way for Jesus? Palm branches?
    - No. It was John the Baptist and the message of repentance. **Matthew 3:1-3**
    - After the resurrection the answer was still repentance. **Acts 3:17-19**
    - And, it is the same today. Let's up humbly open our hearts to the Lord in prayer.
- **Send off:** [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag) Thank you so much for tuning in today! Have a blessed day!