

## Why Tuesday Is More Important Than Sunday

### A Recipe For Disaster:

Numbers 20:1-13

- ❶ Get ourselves in a place where we are either:
  - **Physically exhausted**
  - **Emotionally drained**
  - **Spiritually isolated**
- ❷ Enter God's **presence** and encounter God's **glory**.
- ❸ Go out and live God's Word, **our way**.

### Understanding God's Plan:

Numbers 20:7-8, Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:13-16, 2 Corinthians 5:20, Philippians 2:14-16

- ✓ God has chosen to reveal himself through his:
  - **Creation**
  - **Word**
  - **People**
- ✓ How we live our lives is **EXTREMELY important** to God.

### Understanding Our Part:

Colossians 3:1-21, Romans 12:1-2, James 3:9-12

- ✓ Where does God expect **holiness** and get \_\_\_\_\_ instead?
- ✓ We measure success by God's **approval**, not the **outcome**.

## Food for Thought for the week of June 26, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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**1.** Being a good representative of Jesus can seem like a confusing assignment. Jesus simplifies it in a talk he had with his disciples the night before his crucifixion. Using a vineyard analogy, Jesus talks about what it takes to grow in him in John 15:1-8. Read the passage and jot down the roles each of the main characters (God, Jesus, and the believer) plays and the responsibility each has in the spiritual growth process.

**John 15:1-8** *New International Version (NIV)*

*The Vine and the Branches*

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

How could understanding these differing roles and responsibilities effect your spiritual growth?

What are some challenges for you to consistently remain in Christ?

**2.** Representing Jesus well simply means that we imitate him and how he acted. It's easy to wonder, "How can we expect to be able to act like the sinless Savior of the world?" What insights and encouragement do the following passages provide for why imitating Jesus is possible and why we don't have to accomplish it by sheer determination alone?

**Acts 1:8** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**John 16:7** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

**Galatians 5:16-26** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions,

factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**3.** Probably the biggest area in which we're called to be good representatives of Jesus is in our relationships. What insights on living and working with others do you find from Jesus' example in Philippians 2:1-11?

**Philippians 2:1-11** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Imitating Christ's Humility*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.