

Reclaiming the Ordinary: Simple Rhythms for a Meaningful Life

Part 3: How to Find Peace in a World of Chaos

John 15:1-12

Summary: In a world shaped by outrage and division, staying connected to Jesus can transform your life with peace, joy, and lasting impact.

Main Ideas:

We're formed by whatever we allow to inform us

The voices and rhythms that shape you will determine the fruit of your life.

Creating a rhythm of transformation will guide us to a life of love and peace.

Jesus is the source of the life we were created to live.

Pruning can hurt, but it's always for a purpose: more fruit, more life.

If we are connected to Jesus, we WILL bear fruit.

We produce fruit by loving like Jesus would if he were living our lives.

A world in chaos needs a people in rhythm with Jesus.

Invitation:

1. Evaluate your inputs and voices.
 - Use Philippians 4:8 as your guide.
2. Create a rhythm of being connected to Jesus
 - Take 5 minutes each day to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).
3. Allow Jesus' Words to live in and through you
 - Ask What does Jesus' love look like?

Transcript:

WE: After all that's happened recently, in our world, our country, maybe even your own life, how are you, really?

- Just one word.

And recent events have again revealed how divided we all are.

Two people can see the same news story but walk away with completely opposite opinions...

- Almost like they are living in two separate realities.

Why? B/c the truth is, We HAVE chosen to live in separate realities

- More than just informing us, our feeds and the voices we follow are actually forming us
- shaping how we see the world and each other.
- We're formed by whatever we allow to inform us

Our newsfeeds thrive on outrage: anger and fear keep us clicking, scrolling, and debating.

And what does this form in us?

- Anxiety. Polarization. Division
- We end up with a picture of God who always agrees with us,
- and a faith that follows our politics, instead of guiding them.

We know it's unhealthy, and something has to change.

What if there's a better way... a way of living anchored in peace, not panic?

Here's the big idea for today: The voices and rhythms that shape you will determine the fruit of your life.

And Jesus offers us a different rhythm, one that transforms us from the inside out.

We can be agents of peace and calm.

- We can face the turmoil, chaos, and confusion with confidence and peace...

What if, instead of being shaped by the loudest/most extreme voices... we let Jesus shape us?

- It's what the church world calls discipleship.
- A disciple isn't just a believer... a disciple is an apprentice.
- Someone intentionally shaped by the Teacher they're following.
- Letting Jesus shape what we believe, how we feel, how we act, and how we love.

Jesus invites us to step out of a world shaped by anger and division, and into a relationship that forms us with joy, peace, and love.

Even for those of us who've followed Jesus for years, it's time to ask: Are we really being formed/disciplined by Jesus, or just the loudest voices around us?

Question for today... Who's disciplining you more? Jesus or your feed?

When Jesus was about to be arrested and executed, he knew his first disciples were going to be facing a divided and hostile world.

So he tells them... Creating a rhythm of transformation will guide us to a life of love and peace.

Here's how he puts it...

GOD: John 15:1-3 (NLT)

I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.

What does Jesus mean by 'fruit'?

- Not just religious activity, but it's real, inner transformation.

Paul, in **Galatians 5:22-23**, describes it like this... ***But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.***

- A life where these qualities are seen in everyday thoughts, actions, and attitudes.

Also, fruit includes the impact our lives have on others... what is our life producing for and in others around us? What impact have we made on our world?

Isn't this the life we actually long for? A life marked by peace, joy, and real love?

Jesus says he is the source of that life. **Jesus is the source of the life we were created to live.**

Anything else only creates the anxiety, sadness, and fear we talked about at the beginning.

But to experience that life, we have to stay connected to Jesus and allow God to prune us.

Pruning is when God removes anything that drains us or drags us away from who He intends us to be.

- That might mean rethinking what we watch/listen to, the arguments we chase, or the attitudes we protect.
- **Pruning can hurt, but it's always for a purpose: more fruit, more life.**

You prune plants/trees... to allow the healthy branches to grow... so that the energy of the plant goes to growing healthy shoots or healthy fruit.

How much energy do we waste worrying about things we can't change, holding grudges, or keeping up appearances?

- What if those things are actually fruit-killers Jesus wants to cut away?

I know that as I've let God prune me, I have more peace, fewer arguments, and try to see people as opportunities to love rather than win a debate.

- There's more fruit.

Take a moment. What's one influence or habit that drains you more than it feeds you?

- What would it look like to let Jesus prune that away?

Pruning isn't punishment, it's preparation.

- The farmer doesn't prune the vines b/c he's mad at it... But b/c he wants to help the branches fulfill their purpose... creating fruit.

When we allow God to prune us, we are able to put our energy into what really matters...

- Love joy, peace, patience... in ourselves, our homes, relationships, and in our world.

The goal of all this pruning isn't just self-improvement.

- It's to make room for God's fruit in us.

John 15:4-6 (NLT) Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in

me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

If we are connected to the True Vine (Jesus), we *MIGHT* bear fruit???

No, if we are connected to Jesus, we WILL bear fruit.

If we stay connected to the True Vine, Jesus, it's not a question of "if." Fruit is inevitable.

But what happens to branches that don't produce fruit?

Jesus says they cut off/burned... why?

They are pointless... they are just taking up space and resources.

These branches have missed living out their purpose... they have wasted their lives.

- They really aren't even branches... they are sticks.
- Most you can do with them is have a good bonfire.

Jesus isn't threatening people who struggle... He's warning us that if we disconnect from Him, our lives lose purpose and vitality.

- Discipleship isn't about fear... it's about connection.
- Connected to Jesus, fruit is inevitable. Disconnected, we wither.

So how do we stay connected to the vine?

It's not as complicated. Jesus tells us...

John 15:7-8 (NLT) *But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.*

As we hear, meditate on, and live out Jesus' teaching, we become more fruitful.

If his words remain in you... to be a disciple of Jesus, we have to know what he taught.

And what are his teachings? What are his words and commands?

- Love each other the same way I have loved you.

We produce fruit by loving like Jesus would if he were living our lives.

And when we do, 3 things happen...

First Jesus says *you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!*

- We get everything we want!
- No, Jesus is not a genie.

If we're connected to him, our desires begin to reflect his, and our prayers align with his will.

Second, he says this bearing fruit brings glory to the Father.

It shows the world who God really is.

- It displays his love, patience, kindness, mercy, and generosity.
- It makes God and who he is famous.

And third, it fills us with his joy.

- Not a perfect and easy life.
- But a life that has joy that can't be dashed by our circumstances.
- It's a life of knowing we are seen, loved, liked, and have a true purpose.
- Bringing love into the world
- Enjoying peace with God/self/others

YOU: Think about it... What is shaping you more? Random voices online or the teachings and love of Jesus?

One keeps creating anger, anxiety, and violence.

The other has created love, joy, and peace for centuries. It inspired the first hospitals and fueled the abolitionist movement. And still inspires billions of individual acts of love every day.

It's a life of slow, unseen growth right where we live... dishes, diapers, difficult conversations, and quiet obedience.

It's the only proven way to reject and defeat the hate, the violence, the evil we see around us.

Apprentice yourself to the God of love, connect yourself to the savior of the world... and he will produce fruit in you that will help you change the world.

Today, Jesus is inviting you out of angry division and into His own peace and love.

- Will you take the first step, and say, 'Jesus, be my Teacher and my King?'

And then for all of us... Evaluate your inputs and voices.

- Use **Philippians 4:8** as your guide.
- *Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

Ask, are these things/voices growing good fruit or just growing more anxiety and division?

Many who call themselves JF's hear a 30 min sermon each week, but spend hours every day being shaped by endless feeds and opinions.

- If those voices aren't growing good fruit, let them go.

Then create a rhythm of being connected to Jesus

- Take 5 minutes each day to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).
- Read his teachings and the teachings of his first followers
- Read things written by other voices (devotional?)
- Come here and listen/join the conversation
- Find friends who are also disciples of Jesus, not just in name but by their fruit.

Allow Jesus' Words to live in and through you

- Ask What does Jesus' love look like?

WE: We are invited to be a people of peace in a world of chaos.

He promises that when we stay connected to him, we WILL give the world exactly what it needs right now

- Love, peace, kindness

And that we will experience those things in our own minds, hearts, and lives.

What would it be like not to be swayed and overwhelmed by all the other opinions out there?

- But to be continually refreshed and strengthened by true love and peace itself?

What if you could still have opinions and views and still love people who disagree?

- B/c you know your worth doesn't come from benign right but from Jesus himself
- That your goal isn't to beat the other side but to shine Jesus' love as brightly as possible?

Our world is desperate for fruit that only Jesus can produce.

If we stay connected, our lives will overflow with love, peace, and kindness.

Let's become a people of peace in a world of chaos... together.

A world in chaos needs a people in rhythm with Jesus.