



Ezekiel | Week 4

Bill Bush | 10.15.2022

**BIG IDEA | God will *PRUNE* you so you don't *RUIN* you.**

### **Ezekiel 14:21-23 (NLT)**

<sup>21</sup> “Now this is what the Sovereign Lord says: How terrible it will be when all four of these dreadful punishments fall upon Jerusalem—war, famine, wild animals, and disease—destroying all her people and animals. <sup>22</sup> Yet there will be survivors, and they will come here to join you as exiles in Babylon. You will see with your own eyes how wicked they are, and then you will feel better about what I have done to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> When you meet them and see their behavior, you will understand that these things are not being done to Israel without cause. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!”

### **Ezekiel 15:1-8 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Then this message came to me from the Lord: <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, how does a grapevine compare to a tree? Is a vine’s wood as useful as the wood of a tree? <sup>3</sup> Can its wood be used for making things, like pegs to hang up pots and pans? <sup>4</sup> No, it can only be used for fuel, and even as fuel, it burns too quickly. <sup>5</sup> Vines are useless both before and after being put into the fire!

<sup>6</sup> “And this is what the Sovereign Lord says: The people of Jerusalem are like grapevines growing among the trees of the forest. Since they are useless, I have thrown them on the fire to be burned. <sup>7</sup> And I will see to it that if they escape from one fire, they will fall into another. When I

turn against them, you will know that I am the Lord. <sup>8</sup> And I will make the land desolate because my people have been unfaithful to me. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!”

### **Ezekiel 17:21-24 (NLT)**

<sup>21</sup> And all his best warriors will be killed in battle, and those who survive will be scattered to the four winds. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken.

<sup>22</sup> “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take a branch from the top of a tall cedar, and I will plant it on the top of Israel’s highest mountain. <sup>23</sup> It will become a majestic cedar, sending forth its branches and producing seed. Birds of every sort will nest in it, finding shelter in the shade of its branches. <sup>24</sup> And all the trees will know that it is I, the Lord, who cuts the tall tree down and makes the short tree grow tall. It is I who makes the green tree wither and gives the dead tree new life. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do what I said!”

### **John 15:1-19 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you

produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

<sup>9</sup> “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. <sup>16</sup> You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

**How to be *ROOTED* in Him:**

**1. *RESPOND* to his Word.**

**John 15:7 (NLT)**

7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

**If you want what God wants, you will always get what you want.**

**2. *REACH* out with love.**

**John 15:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

**3. *REMEMBER* it will be hard.**

