

## **SERMON: You are better than that!**

**TEXT: John 15:1-8**

**INTRODUCTION:** When God created Adam and Eve, they had great potential. He created them with an incredible destiny. READ GENESIS 1:27-28. When He placed that potential in them, it was intended for every human who ever lived, because they were to multiply in order to fulfill their potential. Of course, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, which changed everything. Even though He had to start over, He never changed His plan. Look at Genesis 9:1, which took place right after Noah got off the boat. (We could also look at Genesis 12:1-3, Dt. 4:5-9 and Psalms 2:8).

### **AS A GENERAL GRADE, ISRAEL FAILED TO FULFILL ALL OF GOD'S PLAN FOR THEM**

1. There were periods of time when we saw great men and women of God did great things for Him. There was progress with those like Abraham, Moses, Noah, Joshua, some great judges and a few great kings: David, Josiah, and Hezekiah to name a few. However, if we consider that the Old Testament period of time was at least 4000 years, there are only a few righteous men and women mentioned in there.

2. Overall, Israel failed to accomplish all that God had for them.
3. The most telling Scripture in this is John 1:11.

### **WHY IS THIS THE CASE?**

1. John gives us the answer in John 1:17
2. The Jewish people did not have the level of grace that we do.
3. New Testament believers have been given greater grace.

### **I HAVE A BURDEN!**

It seems with the amount of grace we have, we ought to be seeing God do even more.

1. Look at the potential we have been given. Read John 14:11-14.
2. We will do the work that Jesus has done. This includes many things, but we must admit that there often seems to be a focus upon the miraculous signs that Jesus did.
3. We will do greater works (John 5:20-24) - This means people getting saved and believers growing and seeing more of the life of Jesus flowing in their life.

### **THE ANSWER IS PRAYER IN JESUS' NAME**

1. Jesus says the answer is prayer in His Name. To pray in Jesus' Name means that when we pray, we ask for those things that Jesus would ask for.

2. We see powerful answers when we put ourselves in the position to hear from God and pray for the things that He wants. Read John 15:7, 8. We will talk about two ways to do this.

3. We must allow the Word of God to live in us, because we do not naturally know the Word of God. We must allow the Word of God, the Bible, to fill our mind. We must live in it. Read Colossians 3:16 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

- Paul nails it when He tells the Romans that they must have their mind renewed.

a) **Information**

**b) Revelation – This is not new truth, but truth that goes deep into the core of our being. The verses jump off the page! Abraham in Gen. 22.**

**c) Revelation energizes faith, which produces obedience. This is repentance, by the way. When our mind really changes, our behavior will also change.**

4. We must remain in Him (John 15:7, 14-15).

- Leon Morris says that this means to live in such a way that He will feel welcomed into our life and have the ability to work in our life as He desires
- Hebrews 10:32-12:1-3.

**What do we do?**

- Confess/repent
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill us again and show us how we can gain victory
- Follow through; get counseling, deliverance, prayer, or whatever it takes.