

## **Growing**

*Luke 14:25-35*

### **I. How Did Jesus Handle the Crowds?**

- Regardless of the crowd, Jesus never wavered in His message or method.
- Jesus hungered for the real and the authentic.
- Jesus chose authenticity over hypocrisy.

### **II. Jesus knows how to Add and Subtract**

- Jesus purposely downsized the crowd
- True Disciples of Christ trust Him with the additions and the subtractions of life.
- Disciples of Christ must learn the personal cost.

### **III. Pruning (The Way and Method of Jesus) John 15:1**

- Importance of Pruning
  - Removes what is dead so the healthy portion of the plant can receive nutrients
  - Allows new growth patterns
  - Prevents diseases
- In Luke 14, we see Christ “pruning” the crowd.

#### **IV. Misconception of Pruning**

- Pruning is not punishment
- We must live out of the son ship of Jesus Christ and not our fallen state of mankind.
- Those who bear fruit must face times of subtraction.

#### **V. Rules of Pruning**

- Pruning must be done in the right season
- The closer Christ that came to the cross, the more people were removed from His ministry.
- There were only 12 disciples at the Last Supper and 1 disciple at the cross.

Pruning serves to bring forth a greater harvest.

The Father sees the harvest coming from your life.

We are connected to the vine and our purpose is to produce a harvest.

#### **VI. The Devour Matthew 13:24**

- While the Father wants a harvest, the devour looks to destroy it.

Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.