

SMORE Class @ Calder  
March 17, 2013

JESUS

Most people know the name, but few know Him.

What do you think when you think of Jesus?

When I'm spiritually confused I read the "red letters." That is I get a red-letter version of the Bible and I concentrate on what Jesus said.

It works every time. It clears my head and redirects my path. This week we will look at a chapter that has a message for all of us, even 2000 years later.

Look with me at John 15 and the wonderful illustration found there. Read it aloud and listen for a particular verse that has meaning for *you*.

Read John 15: 1-11

Which verse spoke to you?

After *the Prayer of Jabez* Bruce Wilkinson wrote *Secrets of the Vine*. It is about making changes in your life that will make it better, will benefit and bless you.

I've been preparing for spring, my favorite time of year. I trimmed back the brown and dry parts of plants that were already sprouting again.

We brought the plants out of the greenhouse. Some were ragged and had to be trimmed, otherwise they would be a mess by June with no shape and unpleasing to the eye.

Bruce Wilkinson writes,

"...an expert pruner applies his skills in four specific ways: to remove growth that is dead or dying; to make sure sunlight can get to all fruit-bearing branches; to increase the size and quality of the fruit; and to encourage new fruit to develop."

How might this have meaning in your life?

Catholics, mostly, give up something for Lent. Our Pastor and his wife do this and he encourage us to consider it. Pruning requires us to let go of parts of our life. It insists that we release anything that is not providing enrichment for His kingdom.

What has been removed from your life and caused you to grow spiritually?

“God isn’t trying to just take away; He’s faithfully at work to make room to add.” - Bruce Wilkinson, *Secrets of The Vine*