



LESSON 10

November 8, 2020

The Love Connection

Today's lesson focus is on Jesus explaining to His disciples the fruitfulness of abiding and being connected to Christ. When Deacon Maurice realized he was becoming disconnected spiritually, he made the necessary adjustments.

Deacon Maurice is a gifted teacher. Visitors have joined church after attending Deacon Maurice's Sunday school class. He prepares well, and he knows how to pull out of the lesson just what the hearers need to hear. As time went by, Deacon Maurice began to spiritually fall off. Although he was teaching Sunday school every Sunday and never missed worship, gradually Deacon Maurice began feeling detached from God. From the outside, Deacon Maurice looked and talked as one who was linked up with God; but in his heart he knew there was a love disconnect.

What was the issue? Deacon Maurice had taught Sunday school for so long that he became prideful and smug. He stopped studying the lesson prior to Sunday school class. As his studying waned, he was losing his zeal to read and meditate on God's Word. Deacon Maurice then began having trouble hearing God. It wasn't long before Deacon Maurice found it difficult to teach the Sunday school lesson. Attendance dropped. At first, Deacon Maurice blamed it on the pandemic, but other classes were maintaining their attendance and had even grown.

Deacon Maurice grew up in California, so he knew about vines, branches, and vineyards and how branches were expected to bear fruit. Deacon Maurice also knew he had become unfruitful and lost that intimate and vital love connection with God.

Because Deacon Maurice was aware how the metaphor of the vine and the branches applies to Jesus and those who follow Him, he was also aware he was producing a different kind of fruit on his branch that was not holy. Convicted and ashamed, Deacon Maurice repented and asked God to purge, prune, and cleanse his heart of the ungodly fruit of pride and complacency.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the fruit that is expected from a branch that is intimately connected to Christ.
2. Discuss the right of the Husbandman to purge, prune, and cleanse those who are connected to Christ.
3. Discuss that when Deacon Maurice was becoming detached from the vine he lost not only his zeal to teach but also the power to teach.