

God's Grace for Bruised Branches

John 15:1-3

WHEN YOU FALL, YOU HAVE A LORD WHO LIFTS YOU UP

“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, He takes away.”

John 15:2

In the vineyard, the fruitless branches are the ones that have damaged their connection to the true vine

What should the vinedresser do with an unfaithful branch?

The vinedresser finds a fallen branch, lifts it up from the ground, cleans away the dirt and stains, and restores it to health

He knows that by acting redemptively, he can make it fruitful again

That is how Jesus deals with you and me when we have fallen away

WHEN YOU FALL, YOU HAVE A LORD WHO LIFTS YOU UP

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Isaiah 61:1-2

From the beginning, Jesus never planned to reject or avoid bruised branches and hurting people

He came to make them whole again

THE GOD WHO COMFORTS THE AFFLICTED WILL ALSO AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE

“Every branch that bears fruit, He prunes, that it might bear more fruit.” John 15:2

He is always doing whatever He needs to do to make each branch more fruitful

There are times in your life when the Lord will prune you

When Christ prunes you, He never does it to hurt you, but to make you fruitful

THE GOD WHO COMFORTS THE AFFLICTED WILL ALSO AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE

“We know that all things work together for good for them that love the Lord; to those who are surrendered to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28

GOD PLANS FOR YOU TO LIVE WITH ASSURANCE

As a believer, you never have to be afraid that something you do can separate you from Christ, or that you will lose your salvation

Nothing can change a believer's status with Christ; it is He who told His disciples – "*You are already clean*" John 15:3

You can be free from fear and free to live in assurance