

Rev. Dave Rohde

For Sunday, January 12th "Inspired Growth"

Isaiah 43:14-21 – NIV

- ¹⁴ This is what the Lord says—
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"For your sake I will send to Babylon
and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians,
in the ships in which they took pride.
- ¹⁵ I am the Lord, your Holy One,
Israel's Creator, your King."
- ¹⁶ This is what the Lord says—
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
- ¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
- ¹⁸ "Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
- ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
- ²⁰ The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
- ²¹ the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.

John 15:1-8 - NIV

- ¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
- ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you

wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Takeaway: God loves us, meets us, and moves us with grace.

Questions:

1. If you had to describe your Spiritual journey as a type of plant or tree, what would you choose and why?
2. The concept of God loving us, meeting us, and moving us implies that, while God loves us, encountering God also changes us. How can we communicate that message to others without making them feel judged?
3. Pastor Dave said that another way to translate "abide in Jesus" (John 15:4) is to "make your home in Jesus." How is that concept different from simply believing in Him?
4. God's grace moves us to bear fruit. What "fruit" have you seen God produce in your life recently?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20250112.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/zVWeFk8sTKk>