

# April 23 - 24 Sermon

## UNDERSTAND THEIR STORY

1. Read Isaiah 37:26-32 for context and then focus on the last two verses.
  - a. In this text, Isaiah is promising that a “surviving remnant” of true believers will withstand future judgment and flourish. What images are used to describe the health of this remnant?
  
  - b. How are these people protected & made healthy? Who ensures that this happens?
  
2. Jeremiah used this same image to talk about how individuals will flourish. Read Jeremiah 17:7-8.
  - a. What other pieces does Jeremiah add to Isaiah’s image? What attitudes or actions can cause people to flourish? Does flourishing depend on favorable circumstances, or something else?

## CONNECT TO HIS STORY

3. Read Matthew 7:15-20
  - a. How does Jesus draw on the Old Testament “tree” imagery in this section of the Sermon on the Mount? How does he evaluate the spiritual health of a person?
  
4. Read John 15:1-5
  - a. How can we bear fruit, according to the text? Who must we be rooted and remain in?
    - i. What does this look like? What does it mean to abide in Jesus? (see this Northview blog for help if you don’t know - <https://northview.org/i-am-the-true-vine/>)

## **APPLY TO OUR STORY**

Throughout Scripture we see that individuals and groups of people flourish, withstand storms and bear fruit when they are deeply rooted in the Lord: Deep Roots lead to Abundant Fruit

5. In light of this truth, how shall we live? Read Colossians 2:6-7 to see how the Apostle Paul answers this question.
  - a. How can we, practically, start or continue to “walk in him, rooted and built up”?
  
  - b. How can we become more “established in the faith”? (individually and as a group)?
  
  - c. How can we, together, “abound in thanksgiving”?
    - i. What are you thankful for, personally?
  
    - ii. What are you thankful for, at Northview?

## **PRAYER**

Close in prayer for the confessions of the people in your smaller groups:

*Adoration: What can you praise God for, as a result of studying this text?*

*Confession: What might you need to confess to God as a result of studying this text?*

*Supplication: What can you ask God for, as a result of studying this text?*