

Come and See: God's Pruning Shears  
John 15:1-6

"Vinedresser": the One Who prunes, trains, and cultivates to get the greatest yield

An Old Testament Pattern:

- God Gave Them His Words - Deut 30:15-20  
...Scriptures - Acts 7:38; Ro 3:2; II Tim 3:16-17
- God Sent Them "Friends" - Prov 27:6  
...Prophets and Judges - Dan 9:6,10; Judges 2:11-16
- God Used Afflictions - Is 48:10  
...Attention getting consequences - Hag 1:9-11; II Chron 6:26-27; Ezek 13:8-16
- God Delivered Them Unto Enemies - Deut 28:47-48  
..."My servant Nebuchadnezzar" - Jer 25:8-9

...All rooted in the fierce, jealous love of God - Deut 7:7-8; Ex 20:4

A New Testament Pattern: Eph 4:15; Heb 12:4-11

- God Speaks With Truth That Is Unbending - Mal 3:6; Ja 1:17; Heb 13:8  
...Truth: What God says - Jo 17:17  
...The confrontation can be unpleasant - Heb 12:11  
...The purpose of pruning with Truth: Freedom - Jo 8:32  
(the freedom to bear much fruit) - Jo 15:2,5
- God Acts With Love That Is Unending - Jo 13:1  
...Love: What is always in our best interest - I Cor 13  
...The "squeezings" can be painful - Heb 12:7,11  
...The purpose of pruning with love: fearlessness - I Jo 4:18  
(the deliverance from self-absorption)
- The Result? The "peaceful fruit of righteousness" - Heb 12:11  
...God's character expressed in man's behavior  
...The Vinedresser prunes with loving truth, with truthful love  
...Free and fearless branches bear much fruit!