

## Diffusing Jesus

Every now and then, some creative person invents the proverbial “new mousetrap;” something that accomplishes the same purpose as available technology, but in an entirely new way. For those of us who were born in the dark ages, we might remember the Sony Walkman. It’s been replaced by the iPod. Another recent example that comes to mind is the new ring-shaped cooling fan. Now that’s a new mousetrap! It’s so unique that all you can do is stand there and stare at it when you see one. I mean, it’s great that it actually blows air and all, but even if it didn’t I’d still want one, if nothing more, than to have as a conversation piece!

There’s another “new mousetrap” that hit the market in the last few years that’s a little more affordable which we do happen to have in our home. It’s called a reed diffuser. It’s basically a 21<sup>st</sup> century air freshener. Gone are the days of watching that jell-like substance shrivel to oblivion. Now, we’ve got this trendy little bottle filled with scented liquid and a handful of long, thin sticks (or reeds). One end of the reed is immersed in the liquid and the other end protrudes from the bottle. The idea is that the wooden reeds draw the liquid up into themselves and produce a fragrant aroma which is released into the surrounding air. It’s an ingenious concept and it really works!

It only works, however, when the reeds remain immersed in the liquid. If you were to take the reed out and lay it next to the bottle, it would eventually dry out and give off no fragrance at all. The fragrance comes from the liquid, not from the reed itself.

In John 15, as Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure and return to Heaven, He referred to Himself as the true vine and to His disciples as the branches. He knew that His disciples would produce no fruit from within themselves. If they were to disconnect from their only true source of life and sustenance, their life would be fruitless. Christ’s disciples had to remain plugged in to their relationship with Him in order to enjoy the supernatural nourishment that produces a fragrant and godly life.

The abundant life that was available to Jesus’ disciples two thousand years ago is still available to His disciples today. It still works the same way. There is no “new mousetrap” when it comes to living a life of joy, peace, purpose, and fulfillment. There’s no shortcut and it can’t be downloaded from Amazon or iTunes. The abundant life is realized by staying connected to Jesus; by abiding in Him. How do we do that? We stay connected to Christ by obeying His commands in the power of indwelling Spirit.

As we celebrate this Independence Day, why not do it by celebrating our dependence on Jesus and the abundant life that comes by remaining in Him!