

## Abiding in Jesus Pt. 4

April 30, 2020

### John 15:1-11 ESV

**1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.**

*John 4:13-14 ESV*

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

- No matter how good-tasting, refreshing, reviving or vital to life water is, it cannot touch what the spirit and soul needs.
- When the spirit and soul are empty and dead, the natural life is not worth living.

*Isaiah 5:1-5 ESV*

1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

4 What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

5 Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

- God gives His garden all of Himself, the very best care, and yet the rebellion in man's heart refuses to glorify, thank, worship, love or serve Him.
- Because of the rebellious pride in human nature, God must administer the pain of chastisement.

*Hebrews 12:5-6 ESV*

5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

### John 15:1-11 ESV

**2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**

*Hebrews 6:4-6 ESV*

4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

- "...since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God..." NASB
- These have lost their salvation, not because of their sinful actions, but because they've lost the ability to repent.
- Losing the ability to repent is what you need to fear first and foremost.
- Those who are repentant are eternally secure, but what if you have lost the ability to repent?
- There is a hardening of the heart and a searing of the conscience which renders a person incapable of repentance.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 ESV

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,  
2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

Hebrews 5:11-14 ESV

11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.  
12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,  
13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.  
14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

- Every circumstance and situation of our lives are ordered by God with a specific, eternal purpose of cutting away and cleansing the sin.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.  
8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.  
9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.  
10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Peter 4:1-2 ESV

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,  
2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

John 15:1-11 ESV

3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

John 17:17 ESV

17 Sanctify [set them apart for holy service to God] them in the truth; your word is truth.

James 1:21 ESV

21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- The Word of God gives birth within you all the will and ability you need to obey.
- The Word of God first births within you the desire to will, and second, the ability to obey.
- Jesus is not saying the disciples were altogether clean and holy, free of any carnality and sin. He was saying that the cleansing of the heart had already begun by the Word He had spoken.
- Jesus was saying that as long as your heart is open and surrendered to the Word of God, cleansing is continually ongoing.

John 15:1-11 ESV

4 **Abide in me**, and **I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

- **Abiding in Christ**
  - continuity of relationship and fellowship (throughout the day and the years)
  - unity and blending of relationship and fellowship
  - holy obsession of clinging to, delighting and resting in Him

**How to abide in Christ**

- meditation on God's Word
- prayer without ceasing
- praise, worship, thanksgiving

James 4:8 ESV

8 Draw near (eggizō - to bring near, to join to) to God, and He will draw near to you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

*18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

*Psalm 1:2-3 ESV*

*2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

- **The Abiding Christ**

*Galatians 2:20 ESV*

*20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*

*Ephesians 3:16-17 ESV*

*16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*

*17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...*

*Romans 8:10-11 ESV*

*10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

*11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

*Colossians 1:27 ESV*

*27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

**John 15:1-11 ESV**

**5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

- *Spiritual fruit are supernatural qualities birthed by the Holy Spirit, which are beyond our natural ability.*
- *The Word and Spirit of God will be in you everything you are not. The Word and Spirit of God will accomplish everything in you that you are not capable of.*
- *God does not measure spiritual success the way man does.*
- *God measures spiritual success by fruit; specifically, the fruit of relationship.*

*Galatians 5:16-23 ESV*

*16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

*17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

*18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,*

*20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,*

21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- **Spiritual maturity/success is not measured by achievement nor metrics.**

- God is not looking for quantitative achievements, but rather the spirit and heart with which we have lived our lives.

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

2 Samuel 24:10-13 ESV

10 But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

11 And when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

12 "Go and say to David, 'Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.'"

13 So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, "Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me."

- **Spiritual maturity/success is not measured by activity nor busy-ness.**

- Busy-ness feeds the pride and the deception of self-importance and superiority.
- Activity is an escape from quietness and stillness, where you are confronted with all the demons within.

Daniel 12:1-4 ESV

1 At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

*4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.*"

- **Spiritual maturity/success is not measured by outward appearance.**

- *A facade or image can be manipulated or produced by the flesh, but God is looking for fruit born by His Spirit and Word.*

*1 Samuel 16:6-7 ESV*

*6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."*

*7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."*

*Matthew 23:25-28 ESV*

*25 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.*

*26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.*

*27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.*

*28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

*1 Corinthians 1:26-31 ESV*

*26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.*

*27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;*

*28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,*

*29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*

*30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,*

*31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."*