

Abiding in Jesus Pt. 3

April 23, 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.

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 success is not measured by natural accomplishments and metrics, nor outward appearance. Spiritual success (maturity) is measured by the character of the heart. It's not what*

I have achieved but the fruit that is born. Many times the child of God who has born the most fruit will appear very unsuccessful by worldly standards.

- *The fruit that Jesus looks for is impossible for us to produce. It is only produced by His life active in us. But the worldly appearance of success, size and influence can all be manufactured by human effort.*
- *Therefore the Christian life is not one of straining and striving but surrender and abiding.*
- *The fall from grace into sin when we stop abiding is instantaneous. Our only resistance to and deliverance from sin is the power of God.*

John 15:1-11 ESV

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

- *Can there be any mistake in this interpretation? Jesus is not speaking in riddles or mysteries.*
- *Abiding in Christ is not a feature, not a “nice-to-have” luxury. Your eternity hinges on abiding in Christ.*

John 15:1-11 ESV

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

- *Prayers that come from God’s heart have great power. Prayers that come from our heart have no power.*
- *When we are abiding in Christ, and His words are abiding in us, we can ask whatever we wish because our wishes will come from our abiding in Him and from His words abiding within us.*
- *One primary reason our prayers are not answered is because our prayers come from our own heart, not God’s heart.*

James 5:16 ESV

16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

John 15:1-11 ESV

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.