**Day 30 – Final Word From Jesus**

John 15:1-5

If you think back on John’s letter there were many key words… key themes… key truths repeated. But I believe the most important truth of them all has been the importance of abiding in Him… or we can’t love, won’t be obedient and we will not continually walk in the truth. And of course, the other side of the abiding coin is that God abides in us!

Read through the list you made of the things you learned each time “abide, abides, or abiding” is used in the letter. If you didn’t make that list, it’s not too late.

Today we will look at abiding one more time and let Jesus have the final word concerning this action in the life of a believer.

2. Read John 15: 1-11 and take notice of the word abide. List everything you learn about abiding.

Did you see how Jesus’ words parallel or compliment what John taught? Remember, Jesus is speaking to His disciples!

Now lets interrogate verses 1-5, asking who, what, when, where, why and how. Start back in verse 1.

3. Who is the true vine? Who is the vinedresser? Who are the branches?

Jesus says He is the “true” vine. In the Greek, “true” means *genuine*. He is the real deal. Any other vine is but a copy… not the genuine.

4. Who takes care of the vine and the branches? “Oh what love the Father bestows on us”. Where did we hear that?

5. What word is used 6 times in 11 verses?

6. The branches should bear fruit. A branch can only bear fruit if it does what?

7. Notice, Jesus says every branch in Me. The NT has much to say about everything we have IN HIM. But much of it is DEPENDENT on our remaining in Him… or keeping ourselves in what (1 John… main theme).

8. How do we get in Him?

Note: The branch is born out of the Vine, where the life of the Vine flows in us and through us producing fruit. It’s really the Vine’s fruit. It comes through sharing that real life He gives us.

9. What does the vinedresser do with the branches that do not bear fruit?

Note: If the branch is not bearing fruit it can be do to the disease of “called sin”. We are talking about disciples not bearing fruit, so God may put us on the shelf for awhile while He deals with our sin, worldliness, living out of false teaching, etc. We might get put on the shelf, or He could even take us home. What did we learn that John meant in 1 John 5:16?

10. If we bear fruit, what does God do?

In the Greek, the word “prunes” means “to cleanse”. God cleanses and takes out of our life by pruning, things that are hindering us from bearing more fruit and much fruit!

11. How is this cleansing accomplished?

PS 119:67

PS 119:71

12. Verse 4 tells us we must keep abiding in the Vine in order to bear fruit. We must remain in constant communion with Christ. We must continually be cleansed so our fellowship is not hindered. (1 John 1: 5:10)

To abide we must keep His commandments…

John 15:10

1 John 2:2-6

John 14:15

REMINDER: Abide is in the present tense… it means keep on abiding, have continuous communion or fellowship with Jesus.

13. In verse 5, Jesus makes it clear, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him does what?

Notice the progression in fruit bearing: bear fruit, more fruit and then much fruit.

Fruit from abiding can of course be the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23)

But the fruit of abiding can be many other things. See the following verses:

V7 effectual prayer

V8 perpetual fruit

V11 the fullness of joy (See 1 John 1: 3-4)

Note: Because we have free will, we can break fellowship with God by allowing sin in our life, by stepping out of the will of God, or by worldliness… all things John dealt with in His letter. Jesus’ heart for all of us is that we produce much fruit!

If we are going to live a life that glorifies God (v8), by continually producing fruit, there is a very, very important thing we must understand and take to heart!

Read verse 5.  ***I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.***

13. How much can we do with Jesus?

Note: Jesus is telling us we must be absolutely totally dependent on Him for all things. We might think we can bear good fruit without Him, but it will be fleshly fruit, with no good, eternal consequences. **A branch has no life without the Vine!** Without Him we can do nothing!

**Application:**

Do you really believe and understand that we are to be absolutely dependent on Jesus, day in and day out?

Do you have this heart of brokenness before the Lord, knowing you are absolutely needy for God, every moment of every day. This does not come naturally.

Are there some things you are trying to do in your own strength? Do you realize that is pride? The root of all sin is pride. Go to God in prayer and confess your sin. Tell Him you are needy for Him. Ask Him to help you see any areas where you are trying to do things in your own strength.

Dear sisters, keep your-self in that place of fellowship with Him and fellowship with other believers. There is no other place to be! Stay close to Jesus and keep looking up!