

## **John's Gospel @ CF!**

### **John 15:1-11 (part two!)**

Sermon notes – BK

October 26, 2025

**Now that we are BACK IN the GOSPEL OF JOHN...**

**We are going through this a little strange...**

**I appreciated the messages Tom communicated over the last couple of weeks.**

- **It was supposed to be just one week, but Tom asked for two, because there was too much there for one week.**
- **I GET IT!**

**Tom covered what this fruit looks like in**

- **Love**
- **Obedience and**
- **Friendship with Christ,**

**What I started on October 5, as we got back into John, I will finish today –**

**Thankfully it all works well together...**

**Love leads to obedience and brings a deep and lasting friendship with Jesus.**

**THIS is something I believe we would love to see active in our lives... but**

**So let's get back into it, shall we?**

**Just at the end of chapter 14, Jesus says...**

***“Rise, let us go from here.”***

**They were moving from the Upper Room... and now they were making their way to the Garden where Judas would betray Jesus...**

**It may be that as they were walking along...They passed by a vineyard (very common sight)**

**Jesus often used illustration from life around them, so this would be a logical conclusion...**

**LAST TIME we were here, I primarily focused on verses 1-3, touching on 4 and 5...**

***John 15:1-3***

***“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.  
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. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.***

**As I mentioned last time, the imagery of a vine would have been very impactful to the Disciples.**

- The reminder of how Israel was described in the prophets as the vine that **only produced “wild grapes.”** Isaiah 5:1-7, Jer. 2:21
- OR as the vine God had blessed (Hos. 10:1) that *led to Israel’s idolatry.*
- There are **at least 7 places** in the OT that refer to Israel as a vine... none of them good. None of them glorified God.

***“I am the true vine...”***

**This was a weighty thing for Jesus to call Himself –**

- Jesus completes what God started
- Jesus fulfills what Israel could not do—
- Jesus is the true and faithful planted vine through whom life and fruit come.
- *The Jews were no longer the source of support for the blessing of the nations... Jesus is.*

**This is the last of the 7 “I am” statements of Jesus in John’s Gospel.**

***“I am the true vine...”***

- True – In every respect... Real – True – Genuine.
- Jesus brings it back to who He is, and our relationship to Him.

**Jesus points to the Father’s intentional, close and skillful work as the one to make this vineyard grow and become**

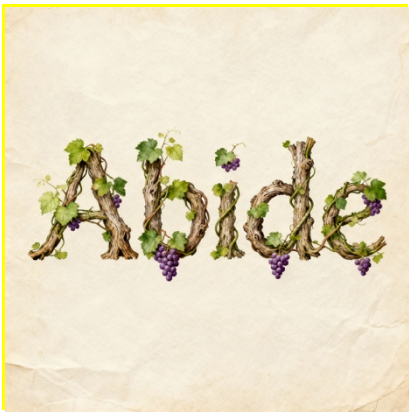
all He designed us to be... The Father truly is the Master Gardener.

- He knows exactly what to do
  - Removing what is not a part of the vine
  - Pruning what is, that it will bear more and better fruit
- The Father knows...
  - He knows the branches that are a part of the vine (abiding) and those that are not.
  - His whole plan is that the branches on the vine would be very fruitful

So, the instruction Jesus gives us is simple, yet profound...

***John 15:4a***

***“Abide in me, and I in you.”***



The instruction is to abide, to remain... to **STAY THERE!**

I promised a few weeks ago I would send you the sermon notes that included the notes of how the word “abide” is used all those different ways –

- The verb “abide” appears in 6 different forms in 7 verses,
- This helps us to see this dynamic word in deep and meaningful ways.

SO... I wrote the meaning of those different ways as they appeared in the text.

### HOW MANY OF YOU READ IT?

Well... as “chunky” as it may seem... we are going to read it today... I have adapted this a bit from my first draft...

*v. 4 – Aorist Active Imperative*

*v. 4 – Second and third, Present Active Subjunctive (possibility, potentiality)*

*v. 5 – Present Active Participle (like using “ing” or “ed”)*

*v. 6 – Present Active Subjunctive (possibility, potentiality)*

*v. 7 – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> abide – Aorist Active Subjunctive (possibility, potentiality)*

*v. 9 – Aorist Active Imperative*

*v. 10 – 1<sup>st</sup> – Future Active Indicative, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Present Active Indicative*

**John 15:4-10** (with the “abide” verb adapted)

<sup>4</sup> (Make this decision today, to) **Abide, in me** (with lasting effect), and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it (chooses actively to) **abides**, in the vine, neither can you, unless you (choose to actively) **abide in me**. <sup>5</sup> I am the

**vine; you are the branches. Whoever *(personally)* abides *(now)* in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not *(actively choose to)* abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you *(choose today to)* abide, *(with lasting effect)* in me, and my words *(Choose this today to)* abide in you *(with lasting effect)*, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. *(Make this decision today to)* Abide, *(with lasting effect)* in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide *(for certain)* in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide *(currently, consistently)* in his love. ...Abide**

**I spend so much time on this word, abide... because Jesus uses it multiple times to communicate one idea in many different ways, as we read.**

**PAUSE**

**Abide... remain, stay there!**

- **Don't get side-tracked, Keep Jesus central**
- **So that ALL you do, is birthed out of the reality of your abiding in Jesus.**

One of the keys to this passage Jesus is teaching is found in verse 5 –

***“Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”***

If it sounds like I am beating this to death... I AM!

I have been a Christian a long time

I have been an active, consistent part of the church (churches) for the last 43 years.

- I have seen a whole lot over the years
  - Some tragic things
  - Some powerful things
  - Some painful things
  - Some exciting things...
  
- I have seen a whole lot of different things.

One of the things I have seen most consistently fail (eventually) is when people try to bear fruit all on our own.

GOOD ideas, not GOD ideas...

WELL intended ideas – it was FOR God, but without God’s leading or blessing...

It is nothing new... I can think of at least a few of examples in the NT

- Some of the disciples trying to cast out the demon that only Jesus could (only by prayer) – Mark 9:29
- James and John wanting to “call down fire” some Samaritans who did not show them hospitality – Luke 9:54
- Peter saying to Jesus after he sees Jesus on the mount of transfiguration, wanting to set up a tent for Jesus, Moses and Elijah – Mark 9:5

**Why is this?**

*Why do we often try to DO?*

*People are watching... maybe we want to be “worthy”*

**We see something hanging from the tree, but does that mean it's fruit from the tree?**



**SHOES hanging from a tree... does that make it a shoe tree?**



How about a **Christmas tree** – it's sure pretty... **surely they grow ornaments this way, right?!**

**Just because it's hanging from the tree, it doesn't mean the tree is bearing that fruit!**

**We must learn to abide.**

- To remain
- To stay put
- To be kept

Part of that abiding means to be patient for the process...

**THIS is a lesson I am still trying to learn!**

**Speaking of real fruit trees...**

**Sandi and I went down with her parents Doug and Nancy** (some of you know them) to **help them get settled** in their winter home in AZ.

- It's a **great place!**
- **One of my favorite things** about their place is their **fruit tree** in the back...

**Any guesses?**



**It's an... Orange tree! They are just not ripe yet... I did try one though!**



**Why can't we just rest in His presence and trust in Him for the process?**

**Maybe we don't practice just being in His presence enough.**

**We are in a go – go – go culture.**

**We live in a culture that is performance driven.**

**Jesus is calling us to trust in Him, abide in Him.**

**HE will bring about the fruit.**

**It is hard to just stay in that place of resting, isn't it?**

**I am not saying we “do nothing” – the  
SOMETHING we DO is remain in Jesus.**

### **IF YOU ABIDE –**

- You will stay *in that place*
- You will find a sustaining *in that place*
- You will find an identity *in that place*
- You will bear fruit *in that place...*

**Bearing fruit is something that naturally comes when you are part of the vine.**

- There is no other way for fruit to come

**WE bear fruit – we don't make it!**

- It is something that happens as a result of abiding in Jesus!
- We help our neighbors and those in need
- We love our family
- We treat one another with care and concern
- We share the hope we have in Jesus to those the Lord brings to us, and those the Lord leads us to
- We ASK Questions!
- We pray and we see answers to prayer!

***“...apart from me you can do nothing.”***

**Nothing – Nothing of eternal value**

**The evidence of being His is that you abide.**

**The fruit follows.**

**Let's get practical here...**

**What does it look like to abide in our lives?**

- To keep Jesus in the front of your mind as you go about your life in each day
- Talk with Jesus, ask Him things
- Spend time in His Word
- PRAY (and pray with your Bible open)!
- Spend time in worship all on your own... Look up songs you love and worship with them!
- Talk with people about what Jesus is doing, or what you would like to see Him do
- Seek out ways to grow, and to serve...

**I know this sounds like more of a “to do” list than just “abiding” – but to abide does not mean to just sit around!**

- The quarterback is “waiting” for the football to be snapped
- The hunter is “waiting” for the game
- The Groom is waiting for his bride to come down the isle...

**How many of you know, these people are not sleeping, or just sitting there... they are ACTIVE in their waiting.**

**THIS is what “abiding” looks like.**

**I understand (as we all have seen)...**

***There are people who are faking it – these are the branches that are removed.***

- They are not part of the vine
- They are not abiding in Jesus
- They are not trusting in, relying on, remaining in... Jesus.

**THESE are the branches that are removed.**

**This is important when we come to verse 6...**

***John 15:6***

***<sup>6</sup> 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.***

**This is not that they were not bearing enough (or the right kind of) fruit, it was that they were not an abiding branch.**

**There was no life in them to bring about fruit!**

**I have been in church long enough to worship next to people that seemed like they were all-in...**

- Only later to hear they are no longer believers
- Only to see that they joined up with a cult
- Only to see that their hearts are hard to the church because a leader failed...
- Were they ever saved?

- Were they only faking it?
- Do we create a place that really does not foster a place to put their full trust in Jesus, but look more to the church or a plan?

Interestingly, Jesus does not spend any time on this...

Jesus just teaches what we need to hear...

***John 15:7-8***

***<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.***

I love how The Message has these verses –

***John 15:7-8 (The Message)***

***“But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.”***

If we want to bring God glory... If we want to have a full life that makes a difference and bears fruit... ABIDE!

Abiding is what gives us a place to pray faith-filled prayers...

***“...you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.”***

**He hears, He knows, He responds...**

**The motivating factor in it all...? Deep, true love... founded on God Himself...**

***<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> 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.***

***John 15:9-10 (The Message)***

***<sup>9-10</sup> “I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done—kept my Father’s commands and made myself at home in his love.***

**Tom talked last week about the key of obedience.  
Jesus is the ultimate example of this...**

**John writes this in his first letter –**

***1 John 5:1-4***

***Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup> For everyone who has been born of God***

***overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.***

**Abiding in (and because of) HIS love  
Obeying His word, because we love Him and He loves us**

**In this place, we bear much fruit and glorify God.**

**Is all of this constricting and boring?**

**NO WAY!**

***<sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.***

**What happens as we abide?**

- We have life
- We have identity
- We have purpose
- We bear fruit

**The amazing truth is that JESUS CHOOSES TO ABIDE IN US!**

**WE HAVE CONNECTION!  
WE HAVE PERMISSION!**

**Abiding is what a believer does.**

- It is the mark of one who believes.
- If you are not abiding in Jesus, you are not His.

## **How do we abide?**

- We do what comes naturally to being a branch
  - WE STAY connected!
    - We get fed
    - We respond to the pruning (you have no control over that)
  - Stay put – do not let anything get in the way.
    - Similar to marriage
    - Similar to other relationships
    - To be and stay healthy, you must stay there

**Doing what Jesus says is evidence you are abiding in Him.**

## **OUT OF LOVE...**

**We keep His commandments because His commandments are for our good.**

**Sandi and I had rules for our kids because we loved them.**

**How much Truer is that of our Father in Heaven?**

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

**That His JOY... His GLADNESS may be in us...**

**And that YOUR "...joy may be made full..."**

**To make complete in every way; to render perfect**

**Do you know this is the heart of Jesus for you?**

**THIS is one of the more amazing passages of Jesus' teaching ever...**

**HIS HEART is so clear...**

- **That we may lack nothing**
- **That we may overflow**
- **And that YOUR "...joy may be made full..."**

**It is an amazing thought the God has chosen this process...**

- **That through us, He reaches into the world.**
- **Through us He meets needs, He instructs, encourages, loves... etc...**

**Is this not the most amazing thought?**

**There is no other plan.**

**This is His plan.**

**We are His plan.**