

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 14:15-31

Sermon notes – BK

June 25, 2025

We finished the Summer series, “Revangelized,” and now, we are BACK IN the GOSPEL OF JOHN!

PAUSE

As a reminder – John's Gospel is a lot different than the first three Gospels...

Matthew, Mark and Luke – are more of the “What of Jesus”

- Giving the details of Jesus ministry
- Each of these Gospels were written with a specific audience in mind
- Matthew wrote to the Jew
- Mark wrote to the Roman
- Luke wrote to the Gentile

- John's Gospel was written to an undefined audience, with all in mind...

John's Gospel was more of the Who of Jesus was in essence, and our response to who He is...

A reoccurring purpose for writing was that we may believe.

John 20:31

“...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name

We have covered the truth...

Our believing comes out of our knowing

- *Not just “knowing about Him...”*
- *Ginosko - A knowing that only comes through close, intimate relationship*

Remember what we covered in the past...

Knowing drives believing; believing is seen in doing.

Since it has been a while since we have been in John...

John had finished writing about the ministry Jesus had in public, now, in chapters 13-17, we read of the intimate time Jesus had with His disciples.

In John 13-17, we read of –

- Jesus washing the feet of His disciples
- Jesus Teaching them
- Jesus introducing what we know now as communion with them...
- Jesus told them that He would be betrayed
- Judas then leaves...
- Once Judas left, Jesus begins to teach differently... on a closer level yet...

Jesus gives them important instruction. What they were supposed to do...

Not specific missions, but how they were to carry out the mission He would lead them in.

This “doing” is rooted in the “new commandment” Jesus gave them...

John 14:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Tom will get deeper into this, as he teaches in this next section, next Sunday.

FOR TODAY, we are going to do a deep-dive in John 15

This Summer, we worked through some of our “spiritual roots” in our own lives to be nourished and to grow like a strong tree and bear branches that produce fruit.

Here in John 15, we have a similar, but different metaphor –

I do not have a three-part outline to follow...

Rather, I felt the need to take a deep-dive into John 15 in a more organic way...

I think it will make more sense as we go through it...

SO... the last few words of John 14 say...

“Rise, let us go from here.”

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

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

We are covering the first 11 verses today.

There is a whole lot here... I could spend weeks on this section – But this leaves a lot of “meat on the bones” for you to get after on your own!

John 15:1-11

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

John 15:1

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

This was actually a pretty weighty thing to say of Himself to His disciples...

WHY?

There are many references to Israel in the OT as being a vine that the Lord had planted...

A golden vine even adorned Herod's temple...

While Israel was called a vine in the OT, it never ended well...

- they 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.

The disciples would have been very clear on the imagery here...

“I am the true vine...”

Here, Jesus fulfills what Israel could not do—

Jesus is the true and faithful vine through whom life and fruit come.

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.

*What Israel failed to be as the evidence of God's love and presence to the world, **Jesus is the perfect representation of the Father.***

Hebrews 1:3a

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,

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

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...

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.

There are differing ways people teach through this –

- This is *a clear verse that you can lose your salvation*
- This verse is clear there are *some that are truly believers and some that are just faking in* (not true branches)
- This verse is referring to believers, not referring to having to do with salvation, but fruitfulness...

I will say, **I do not believe this is a passage we can use for losing your salvation...**

We covered into this when we read through John 10, where Jesus says,

John 10:27-30

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

Interestingly... it all depends on how you interpret the word for “takes away...”

Airō – Take away – but also to “take up”

The significance of this is that this is not God (as gardener) cutting off, but here, more of taking up, raising up for it to be in the sunlight, for it to be supported, for it to get healthy.

This is different than what we see in verse 6 (we will get to in a bit)...

THIS is where I lean...

The point Jesus is making here is that He is the True Vine and His Father is THE perfect gardener!

AS the perfect gardener, He is doing the work, that we bear fruit.

Is that not the work of the gardener?

- He lifts up what needs support
- He prunes that it will bear the most fruit

The work of the gardener is everything for the vineyard.

- Without the great skill of the gardener, there would be not great harvest of fruit!

The pruning however...

This is a real thing.

How many gardeners do we have here?

What gets pruned?

- Dead stuff
- Excess growth
 - They can shade the fruit, reducing sweetness and quality
 - They can take up too much energy, not leaving enough for the fruit
- Pruning encourages new growth in the right direction

Have you recognized times you are being “pruned?”

- Times where you feel convicted to work on –
 - Your attitude
 - Your work ethic

- Your neighborliness
- Etc.
- These are times that may not start off real well, but in the end, you are better for it?

Pruning... that we may bear more fruit...

This process was already at work with the disciples.

We see this as Jesus says to them,

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

“Clean” here has to do with the branch being cleaned, pruned and made ready.

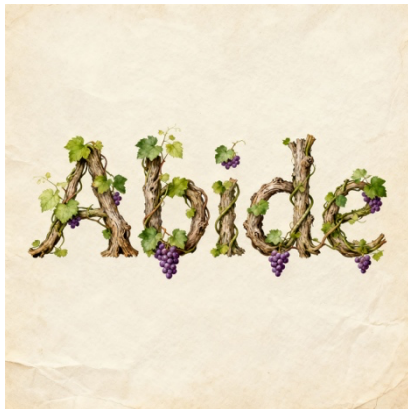
NOW...

We get to the main theme of our verses for the day...

Any guesses on the word?

It is listed 10 times in verses 4-10

ABIDE...



In Greek, the word translated “abide” is μένω (*menō*), which means *to remain, stay, dwell, continue, endure*.

NOTE:

Abide – to remain – Abide in “My love” – *not “My disappointment” or “my judgment” or “My correction”* – this is Abide in “My love”

This word is in verses 4-10, 10 times!

I did a bit of deep diving for all you word-nerds and I found some great nuances in how John used the word abide, that gives us insight... maybe a few more paints for the palette to have a more beautiful picture...

The Greek language is very specific.

You can understand what is going on more deeply, if you look at the words more closely.

I totally found that to be true with how Jesus spoke out the word, “Abide” as John recorded it.

I thought I would read this again, highlighting all the different nuances.

This will be in the notes we send out with the weekly letter.

If you want the weekly letter, note it on a connection card and we will get you on 😊

I will add in after each reference to the word “abide,” the specific nuance the form of the verb has...

John 15:1-10

15 “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. ⁴ **Abide** (*Make this decision today, and with lasting effect*) in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides (*a choice to actively do*), in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me (*a choice to actively do*). ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides (*personally doing this now*) in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide (*a choice to actively do*) in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide (*Choosing this today, and with lasting effect*) in me, and my words abide (*Choosing this today, and with lasting effect*) in you, ask whatever

you wish, and it will be done for you. 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** (*Make this decision today, and with lasting effect*) in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide (*this will happen, for certain*) in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide (*currently, consistently*) in his love.

I know it is difficult to catch it all, but Jesus is giving such a clear directive...

REMAIN – STAY HERE – ABIDE!

Truth is, there are many things that take away our attention.

- I am guessing you can think of many things that can take you away from your “abiding in Jesus.”

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

PAUSE

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.

There are some that act like they are abiding in the vine, but they are not, as we see in verse 6...

- These are the ones in verse 6 that are separated from the vine, they are not believers, because they don't abide.
- They are thrown into the fire and burned
- They do not bear fruit
- They do not belong to the vine
- They are not believers

One commentator noted the difference between John and Judas.

- Both seemed to be “abiding”
- Only one truly was

What happens as we abide?

- We have life
- We have identity

- We have purpose
- We bear fruit

How do we abide?

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

The strength of the branch comes from the health of the tree, in this case, the vine.

Jesus instructs in verse 15:7,

⁷ If you abide (Choosing this today, and with lasting effect) in me, and my words abide (Choosing this today, and with lasting effect) in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

WE HAVE CONNECTION!

WE HAVE PERMISSION!

We can “come into His presence” – NOT something that existed before.
 Jesus is bringing a whole new teaching of ACCESS to the Father –
 who takes PERSONAL interest in YOU.

ALL of this (and so much more) gives glory to God!

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

WE HAVE A PURPOSE!

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!

ALL of this (and so much more) gives glory to God!

- That we bear much fruit
- All of this shows all – we are His
 - This “proves” is not in working hard
 - This “proves” you are abiding in Him and HE works through you!

Jesus gives more insight in what it means to abide...

John 15:9-10

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide (Make this decision today, and with lasting effect) in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide (this will happen, for certain) in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide (currently, consistently) in his love.

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.