

Rest, Trust and Abide in the Presence of the Lord

Oct 19, 2026

Summary

From Biddability to Abiding

Big Idea: Jesus wants more than our frantic service; He calls us to abide in Him so that obedient hearts can bear His fruit from a place of restful trust.

Overview

Building on last week's message about “biddability” (a willing response to the Master's voice), the speaker compares our spiritual lives to rope horses that either wait for the rider's cue or bolt ahead in anxious anticipation. Many believers live stuck in that restless, head-down rush—always fixing, planning, and producing—yet seldom resting in God's presence. Using John 15's picture of the vine and branches, the sermon invites listeners to move beyond mere responsiveness to deep, continual abiding. When we slow down, remain connected, and trust God to direct each step, His life flows through us and real fruitfulness follows.

Key Scripture

- **John 15:1-5** — The foundation of the whole message: true fruit comes only by abiding in the Vine.
 - **Psalm 32:8-9** — The guiding illustration: God instructs, but warns us not to be like an unyielding horse or mule.
 - **Psalm 46:10** — The pivotal command: “Be still and know that I am God,” even while problems persist.
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Main Points

1. Biddability — joyful responsiveness to the Master

- Psalm 32 sets the scene: God will “instruct and teach,” yet we must not require “bit and bridle.”
- Rope-horse analogy: an anxious horse anticipates, cuts left too soon, and endangers both rider and fingers; so do we when we act without waiting for God's cue.
- Signs of lost biddability: minds racing during prayer, planning the next task during worship, feeling guilty when not “productive.”

2. Abiding — remaining close beyond the assignment

- John 15: “Abide in Me and I in you.” Branches bear fruit not by effort but by connection.
- Stillness is trust, not inactivity: Psalm 46:10 calls us to know God amid unresolved problems.
- Indicators we've forgotten how to abide:
 - Treating prayer like a fuel stop.
 - Reading Scripture only to prepare for ministry, not to nourish the soul.
 - Physically present with family or church yet mentally elsewhere.
- Practical counsel: carve unhurried moments with God, read Scripture for the heart, worship without asking for anything, and let God set the pace— “rate” like a trained horse.

3. Fruitfulness — Christ's life expressed through us

- A branch never proves its worth; it simply stays attached and receives life.
 - Jesus first “appointed the Twelve that they might be with Him” before sending them out (Mark reference). Relationship precedes assignment.
 - Service, discipline, and obedience matter, but they flow from grace, not striving.
 - Three linked words capture healthy rhythm:
 1. **Biddability** — “Lord, I am ready to respond.”
 2. **Abiding** — “Lord, I choose to remain close.”
 3. **Fruitfulness** — “Lord, let Your life produce good through me.”
 - The relationship sustains the worker; when the saddle is off and the rope coiled, stay near the Master.
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Application

The call: Slow down, be still, and make space daily to abide in Jesus so that every act of obedience rises from restful confidence in His love.

Head — Recognize the difference between productive busyness and Spirit-directed fruitfulness; name areas where you run ahead of God.

Heart — Receive God's delight apart from performance; let stillness replace anxiety as you trust His sovereignty over unfinished tasks.

Hands

1. Schedule one unhurried block this week for silent Scripture meditation with no agenda.

2. Identify one responsibility you're gripping too tightly and pray a prayer of release.
 3. Practice being fully present: put the phone away during a family meal and thank God for that moment.
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Reflection Questions

1. Where do you most resemble the anxious rope horse—anticipating before God cues you?
 2. What practical habits pull you out of abiding, and how can you interrupt them?
 3. How would your prayer life change if you stopped treating it like a “fuel pump” and started treating it as friendship?
 4. In what area of service are you tempted to prove your worth rather than rely on Christ's life flowing through you?
 5. This week, what specific moment can you set aside simply to “be still and know” God?
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Prayer

Father, thank You that Your love is not earned by our activity but given through Christ. Teach us to obey quickly when You speak and to rest quietly when You whisper “be still.” Draw us into unhurried moments of abiding so that Your life, not our striving, bears lasting fruit. Strengthen the weary, calm the anxious, and let Your peace guard our hearts as we remain in You. In Jesus' name, amen.