



## Abiding in Jesus: Part II

### John 15:1-11

**In Jesus, we can experience answered prayer.**

Verses 7-8:

#### **Text Message:**

- o *Could this promise of answered prayer be any clearer?*
- o Note how specific the promise is: "... **it** will be done for you."
- o *Could there be something foundational that we're missing?*
- o It is important to note that verses 7-8 flow together.
- o In other words, the context of answered prayer is fruitfulness!
- o Let's look at a biblical example of this from Acts 4:23-31, and how Jesus' disciples lived His promise of answered prayer:
  - 1) Their prayer was communal (Acts 4:24a).
  - 2) Their prayer was scriptural (Acts 4:24b-26).
  - 3) Their prayer was missional (Acts 4:27-30).
  - 4) Their prayer was powerful (Acts 4:31).
- o Notice how their prayer fits hand-in-glove with the Lord's

Prayer regarding God's name and kingdom.

- o Interestingly, what follows in Acts 4 is all their needs being provided for (Verses 32-34).
- o Isn't this what Jesus has promised elsewhere:  
The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you. Matthew 6:33, International Children's Bible

### **In Jesus, we can experience His love.**

<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.

### **Text Message:**

- o The word "abide" appears 10 times in John 15:4-11.
- o As Jesus earlier connected answered prayer to fruitfulness (verses 7-8), so here the connection of abiding in His love is connected to keeping His commandments.
- o This is not the first time Jesus speaks of obeying His commandments (See John 14:15), so this is not an optional part of discipleship.
- o Jesus' commands can be boiled down to loving God and loving people (Matt. 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28).
- o When Jesus said, "Do this and you shall live" (Luke 10:28), He was talking about life here-and-now, as well as in the afterlife.

## **In Jesus, we can experience His joy.**

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

### **Text Message:**

- o We've seen how Jesus promises the experiences of His love and joy- *What about the times when we're not experiencing this? When life hits hard, or simply the "wear and tear" of life?*
- o *Do these promises promise immunity to feeling down or depressed or heartbroken or frustrated or...*
- o Some considerations:
  - 1) Both Jesus and His disciples shed tears, and the Apostle Paul writes of despairing of life (See 2 Corinthians 1:8!).
  - 2) Even through the worst of circumstances, there was a return to joy (See 2 Corinthians 7:4!).
- o Sometimes what we need is not more "down time" but some "shut-down time" with Jesus!
- o "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone." Blaise Pascal, French philosopher
- o *May we be people who sit quietly in a room alone with Jesus!*