

# The Final Messages of Jesus

## PART 4 HANDOUT

10.23.22

*We need to give something up in order to really experience other things.*

**John 15:4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

**The phrase *remain in Christ* pictures an intimate, close relationship, and not just a superficial acquaintance.**

**John 15:5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- Process of grafting a branch onto a tree - it is cut into the tree that it can gain life/nourishment/strength from the tree and flourish.

**KEY:** Sometimes you can be close to the Vine but not abiding/remaining in Christ. Judas was not remaining in Jesus.

**John 15:6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

The withered branches who do not “remain” in Him are the unsaved pretenders who tried to simulate an attachment to the Vine but drew no life from Him.

**John 15:8** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

- Chapter 14 - anyone who loves me will do what? Obey my teaching
- Chapter 15 - anyone who shows himself to be my disciple will do what? Bear much fruit.

**Question: What is the fruit?** love for people and making disciples.

- **What matters to Jesus is now flowing through me - and forming fruit.**
- We can become experts at the routines, the lingo, and “acting Christian,” while experiencing no real power and bearing no eternal fruit.

**KEY:** My life has to be about bringing glory to the Father, doing His Will. Everything else is meaningless/worthless.

**John 15:9** “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Now remain in my love.**

- Think of the magnitude of that phrase. Meditate on all that it means.

**John 15:10** If you keep my commands, **you will remain in my love**, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

- Chapter 14 - if you love me keep my commands/obey my teaching
- Chapter 15 - if you keep my commands, you will remain in my love.

**John 15:11** I have told you this **so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete** (full).

- We serve a God who wants our lives to be full of joy.
- **That’s why He tells us to love one another.**

**John 15:18-19** “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

- The only way to keep the world from hating you is to become one of them.

**KEY:** When you know the love of God, it’s a lot easier to know the hatred of the world - because you know the treasure you have.

**POINT:** Spending time with God leads us to know and experience his love and joy in our everyday lives.