

Sacred Rhythms

Week 6 – The Sacred Rhythm of Abiding

John 15:1-11

Note: The basic details of this allegory in John 15:1-11 ...

In the parable of the vine and branches in John 15, our Lord describes four significant insights about the believer's relationship with God.

I. The Ultimate Purpose of Abiding is to Experience God's Joy (15:11)

II. The Passion for Abiding Comes from the Word (15:3, 7)

The word ... "abide" ... means 'to dwell' ... 'to remain' ... 'to stay.'

III. The Proof of Abiding is the Production of Fruit (15:2-5, 7, 8, 10)

I Corinthians 10:31 ...

Colossians 3:23 ...

I Peter 4:11 ...

I Peter 4:16 ...

A. Ultimate Glory to the Father (8)

B. Salvation (8) ... convincing evidence of our saving relationship with God ...

Galatians 2:20 ...

Galatians 5:20 ...

C. A Desire to Dwell with Christ (4) ...

D. Righteous Loving Conduct (9) ...

E. Personal Obedience (10a) ...

F. Answered Prayer (7)

IV. The Lifting Up and Pruning in the Experience of Abiding is Essential to Producing More Fruit (15:2)

Conclusions:

1. Every person who is a child of God is being lifted up and pruned in order to produce more fruit.
2. The abiding believer will be in God's Word during the week.
3. The abiding believer will be obvious to all.
4. The purpose for our abiding is to experience God's joy.

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Auburn Grace Community Church – June 23rd 2024

Life Group Discussion Questions – June 23, 2024

John 15:9-11 *Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 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. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

DISCOVER

1. What are some of the ways we abide with God? How does spending time with God change us? What should flow out of us after a time of abiding? How might you be able to identify a person who has spent time in the Word and with God? What is the ultimate purpose in abiding?
2. What brings you joy? How are those joys aligned with God's intended joy for you? Describe a time when you felt joy after abiding with God. Why does the joy of God transcend the circumstances around us? Why does God want us to have joy? In what specific ways does the joy of the Lord sustain us when worldly pleasures fail to sustain us?
3. Is it possible to be around church, Jesus and the Word and not be abiding? How might this have been a part of the explanation for Judas' betrayal of Jesus? How should we evaluate whether we are in submission to Almighty God or just along for the ride?

EXPLORE

1. Read John 15:1-11. Describe what pruning means for a Christian. How has God used pruning shears in your life? What part of you was discarded? Should we expect that God prunes all of us in the same manner? Explain. At what point in the pruning process do you start recognizing the change is for the betterment of you or for those you are called to serve? How does pruning flow from abiding with God? In v. 5, what does it mean "...apart from Me you can do nothing"?
2. Read Psalm 119:9-11. How did David's passion for the commandments influence his life? What do you see about David that showed he thought of God, day and night? Read Psalm 5:3, Psalm 6 and Psalm 1:1-3. Why should we think of God beyond a designated time of prayer or scripture reading? What might happen if we only allow God to be with us while we are in our quiet times?
3. Read Galatians 5:22-25. What evidence can we observe in ourselves and others that demonstrates spiritual fruit? What is the difference between spiritual fruit and being busy at church?

EXPERIENCE

1. Why is it important to be spiritually clean before we endeavor to be spiritually fruitful? How does spending time with God help us avoid the temptation of creating a god in our own image? How does reading the Bible and growing in our relationship with God impact our understanding of who we are?
2. What part does pruning have in producing more fruit? If a vine is left to grow as it wants, then what is the result? How does this analogy apply to us? Why should someone be concerned if they are not experiencing pruning? What can you do to make your time with God more fruitful? Who do you know that gives evidence of their time with God and what do you see in them?
3. Read Romans 12:1-2. What transformation of your mind would God most want in you?

PRAY

Pray...God, apart from You we are nothing. We know that You created us in Your image so that we might have an eternal relationship with You and to share the Good News with others. As Jesus said, we have no good besides You. May we take our joy and bear Your fruit. Amen.