

Jesus Final Instructions John 13-17 - 11/27/22

Jesus Foretells Christian Service

TEXT – John 15

INTRO – The last words form the last supper

John 14:31 . . . *Arise, let us go hence.* The next two chapters may have been spoken on the way to the Garden.

This chapter divides into three sections:

- a parable (John 15:1-11),
- a commandment (John 15:12-17),
- a warning (John 15:18-27).

I. A Parable John 15:1-11

A parable teaches one main truth, and to try to make a parable “stand on all four legs” is often the first step toward misinterpretation.

The main truth Christ is teaching in this parable is the importance of abiding in Him in order to bear fruit.

The word “fruit” is used six times, and “abide” at least fifteen times. The main point of the teaching here is **fellowship**, not **sonship**.

To abide in Christ means to live in His Word and pray **John 15:7**, obey His commandments **John 15:10**, and keep our lives clean through His Word 3-4

The Christian who fails to abide in Christ becomes like a useless branch,
- like the salt that loses its taste and is good for nothing.

1 Co 3:15 teaches that our works will be tested by fire.

The Christian who fails to use the gifts and opportunities God gives him will lose them **Luke 8:18** *Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.*

To be a branch in the Vine means we are united to Christ and share His life.

As we abide in Him, His life flows through us and produces fruit.

It is possible for the carnal Christian to produce “works,” but only the spiritual Christian can bear lasting fruit.

The fruitful branches are “purged” **John 15:2**

God cleanses us through the Word, chastening us to make us more fruitful, which helps to explain why a dedicated Christian often has to go through suffering. As believers move from producing “fruit” to “more fruit” to “much fruit”. The evidences of the “abiding life” are:

a sense of the Savior’s love **John 15:9**,

obedience to His Word **John 15:10**,

answered prayer **John 15:7**, and

joy **John 15:11**.

II. A Commandment John 15:12-17

This is the “eleventh commandment,” that we love one another. The Christian who abides in Christ ought to get along with other believers! Love for the brethren is a mark of a disciple.

This commandment did not replace the other commandments.

Jesus calls His disciples “friends.” His own death on the cross proved His love for them; they must prove their love for Him by loving His children. Friends love each other and help each other.

The obedience that Christ asks from us is not that of the slave, but of the friend. Because we are His friends and abide in Him, we know His will. Abraham was God’s friend, and God told him His plans for Sodom.

III. A Warning John 15:18-27

From the love of the brethren, Christ turns to the hatred of the world. Why does the world hate Christians?

(1) Because it first hated Christ, and we belong to Him **1Jn 3:13**

(2) because we no longer belong to the world **1Jn 4:5** and **John 17:14**

(3) because the world has rejected His Word **John 15:20**;

(4) because the world does not know the Father **John 16:1-3**; and

(5) because the world’s sin has been exposed by Christ.

Of course, by “the world” Jesus means the whole system of society that is opposed to Christ and the Father. It is made up of people and organizations, philosophies and purposes that are anti-Christian.

“The world” has a prince in Satan **John 14:30**, the archenemy of Christ.

While Christians are in the world physically, they are not of the world spiritually. The old illustration of the ship and the water still applies: there is nothing wrong with the ship being in the water; but when the water gets into the ship, watch out!

Christians can become worldly, and they do so (like Lot) by degrees.

- First there is friendship with the world **Jas 4:4**

- then love for the world **1Jn 2:15-17**;

- Finally, conformity to the world **Rom 12:2**.

Anything in our lives that keeps us from enjoying God’s love and doing God’s will is worldly and should be put away.

To live for the world is to deny the cross of Christ **Gal 6:14**

The world hates Christ; how can the Christian love the world?

In **John 15:22-24**, Christ lays down the basic principle that revelation brings responsibility. His words and His works revealed the will of God and the sinfulness of men. Mankind has no excuse. The fact that Jews and Gentiles alike joined together in hating and crucifying Christ is proof that all people are sinners and guilty before God.

To encourage the disciples, Christ quoted Psalms 69:4 *They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.*

It is the Word that strengthens and encourages us.

He also promises them the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's work is to testify of Christ and point to Him. He does this through the Word and through the good works the Christian performs in the Spirit's power

Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

The Spirit testifies to the Christian, who then witnesses to others

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

CONCL – In the first section of this chapter **John 15:1-11** the Lord deals with **the believer's relationship to Christ.**

In **John 15:12-17**, the focus is the believer's relationship to other Christians; while **John 15:18-27** talk of the Christian's relationship to the world.

Our relationship to the Savior is presented first; for if we are abiding in Christ, we will love the brethren and get victory over the hatred of the world.