

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Abide in Me - Part 4

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Introduction

It was Holy Week and Jesus was on His final journey to the Cross. Jerusalem was crowded with people waiting to celebrate the Passover and perhaps anticipating the potential freedom of being delivered from Roman rule. It is in this context that Jesus tells His disciples of the need to “abide in Him”. What does it mean for us to abide in Jesus today?

Read

John 15:1-10

Discuss

1. Quoting Jesus, John uses the word ‘abide’ 69 times in his biblical writings. Why do you think the word ‘abide’ was spoken so many times by Jesus and what does it mean to you?
2. In this passage we see three steps to abiding in Jesus:
Jesus removes those branches that are not bearing fruit;
He prunes those branches that are bearing fruit;
We are called to remain in the vine to bear more fruit.
Why might “abiding in Jesus” be a process? What are the most painful steps in this process?
3. Jesus says we are designed to be fruitful. We cannot be fruitful unless we abide. We cannot abide unless we are pruned. If we are fruitful and want to be more fruitful, we need to be pruned.
Do you agree with these statements? Do these statements conflict with the achievement of our desired goals?

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4. When we are tired, busy and lazy, we tend to drift away, get distracted and disconnect from Jesus. This may prevent us from being open to God and to what He wants to do through us. Read 1 John 2:3-6. If we desire to abide in Jesus, what is required of us?
5. In order to abide in Jesus, there are three life questions that we need to continually ask ourselves:
 - What (or who) are my priorities in life?
 - What is one thing that I do that "restores" my inner being? How can I prioritise this activity? - Am I praying and making room for the Holy Spirit to move in my life?

Respond

As we approach Easter, ask God to help us walk in simple steps with Him day by day, making choices that connect us with the presence of the Holy Spirit, and thus abide in Him. Our starting point is to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us. The second step is to be obedient to what He asks us to do.

What is one thing that the Holy Spirit has asked you to do recently? Commit to do what He asked of you this week. Take this step of obedience and abide in Him.

Please Note:

Due to Next Monday April 6th being a Public Holiday there will not be a Going Deeper study produced next week.

Hope you have a great Easter Break, and we look forward to serving you again with this resource on Monday April 12th 2021.