

Tuesday, March 28

³ *Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.* ⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.* ⁵ *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

1. What was it that had already made his disciples clean?
 - a. Was it simply that Jesus had spoken the word to them, or was there something more to it?
2. How does this connection to his word help us to understand how he goes about creating fruit in our lives?
 - a. How does this help us understand what it means to abide in him?
3. What then does it really mean that apart from him we can do nothing?
4. What danger is there in thinking of this “abiding in him” in some mystical fashion rather than in the concrete and tangible fashion of his holy word?
5. How are you seeking to abide in Christ through his word and Spirit?
6. What has he enabled you to do recently that you wouldn’t have been able to do without them?
7. What possible success will Christians have who seek to be fruitful without abiding in his word?

KTFK: from the / is the / sap that / is the / root. / for it / His word / our fruit, / nourishment that / brings about / flows out

Song: “Word of God, Speak”

Prayer: “Save us, Lord, from mysticism and vague understandings of what it means to abide in you. May we instead feed on your word, that it might continue to produce tangible expressions of your character in and through us. Amen.”

Wednesday, March 29

⁶ *If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.* ⁷ *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.* ⁸ *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

1. How should we understand who Jesus is referring to by these branches that do not abide in him?
 - a. Are they Christians?
 - b. In what way?
2. What warning is he giving here for those who call themselves Christians but do not abide in him through his word?
3. What promise is Jesus making to those who abide in him regarding prayer?

4. Is this a promise to grant every prayer we offer? Everything we ask for?
5. How does verse 8 help us to understand this more accurately?
6. What kinds of prayers and requests is Jesus referring to?
7. How do we know that God will always answer these prayers with, “Yes!”
8. What is the last thing you prayed for that you needed in order to produce a certain kind of fruit for him?

KTFK: the calling, / he will / his word / and understand / need to / falling. / strength we / As we / journey without / feed upon / grant the

Song: “Find Us Faithful”

Prayer: “Lord, it makes perfect sense that you promise to give us whatever we need in order to produce the kind of fruit you so deeply desire us to produce. Help us to identify those things that we are truly in need of and then to ask you for them, that our growth and fruitfulness might move forward in leaps and bounds. Amen.”

Thursday, March 30

⁹ *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

1. What connection is Jesus making here between his love and his commandments?
2. In what way are his commandments an aspect of his love to us?
3. What was the role of Jesus’ keeping his Father’s commands in order to abide in his love?
4. How does this underscore what we saw earlier in this passage: that to abide in him is to abide in his word?
5. How much joy does he want us to know?
6. How fully does he want us to keep his commandments?
7. What connection is there between his commandments and our joy?
8. How much joy do you believe Jesus had/has?

KTFK: that slip / as we / we embrace / our hands. / and live / Joy will / commands, not / try for / right through / come as / by his / other things

Song: “There is Joy in The Lord”

Prayer “Lord, we so seldom link together your commands, your love, and our joy, yet this is precisely what you do and what you try to get us to understand. Forgive us for thinking that lasting joy comes through anything other than you, and give us a fresh taste of your joy by strengthening us for obedience to your word. Amen.”

Friday, March 31

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

1. How will feeding on Jesus' word lead us into loving each other as Jesus loved us?
 - a. In what way is this a laying down of our lives?
 - b. How might laying down our lives in this way be even more challenging than laying down our entire life at one time?
2. In what way does this make us Jesus' friends?
3. Why do you think Jesus reminds his disciples that they did not choose him?
 - a. What does he mean by this?
 - b. How does this simplify our thought process as we consider whether we will follow his commands?
4. To what degree can we truly be loving others if we are not fully living toward them according to Jesus' word?

KTFK: we lay / within us / abound as / others will / strives. / his word / down our / each time / lives, dying / Love for / to ourselves

Song: "O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go"

Prayer: "Help me to love as you love. Amen."

Saturday, April 1

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

Mar 27 - Focused only / on the / fruit the / Father prunes / the branches, / and with / each snip / of pretty / leaves his / kingdom thus / advances.
Mar 28 - His word / is the / sap that / brings about / our fruit, / for it / is the / nourishment that / flows out / from the / root.
Mar 29 - As we / feed upon / his word / and understand / the calling, / he will / grant the / strength we / need to / journey without / falling.
Mar 30 - Joy will / come as / we embrace / and live / by his / commands, not / as we / try for / other things / that slip / right through / our hands.
Mar 31 - Love for / others will / abound as / we lay / down our / lives, dying / to ourselves / each time / his word / within us / strives.

Family Worship 2023 March 27 - April 1 John 15:1-17

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily
KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

Monday, March 27

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

1. Why do you think Jesus specifies that he is the **true** vine?
 - a. Are there also false vines out there? Who or what are they?
2. What is the vinedresser's main goal for his branches?
 - a. How does he show it?
 - b. How does removing the branches that aren't bearing fruit help the branches that are?
3. What does this mean in your life? What is the Father's main goal for your life?
4. How might this help us when we are going through difficulty?
5. What kinds of things has the Father already pruned from your life?
 - a. How has that led to your producing more fruit?
6. What other things might he want to prune?
 - a. How would eliminating them make you more fruitful for him?

KTFK: leaves his / and with / advances. / of pretty / Father prunes / Focused only / fruit the / on the / the branches, / each snip / kingdom thus

Song: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Prayer: "Lord, forgive me for too often operating without a clear understanding of your ongoing desire to develop more and more fruit in my life. Help me not to mourn the loss of things you have decided must be removed: relationships, hobbies, habits, or even careers or other personal plans and desires. Help me to be as concerned with genuine fruit in my life as you are. Amen."