



friendship
community church

Faithful Sermon

John 15:1-17

Week of May 26-June 1, 2019

#faithful2

Take the time to read the passage in the group.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I 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, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:1-11 ESV

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches – Why do you think Jesus uses this imagery? What significance might it have to His audience then and now?

Useful branches bear fruit and can only bear fruit attached to the vine.

Jesus love produces love in us to have love for others. People deceive themselves into thinking that they can truly love someone out of their own strength. How have you seen that eventually not work out? How have you seen God's love overcome all barriers to you loving someone in your life?

His love empowers our obedience.

What do you think of this statement? When you and I struggle with being obedient to God's Word, it is always a result of us not surrendering to His love working in and through us.

Why is it so hard for you to surrender to God's authority in your life?

Obedience can happen because of those over us -

- we do it out of fear, power over us fuels our obedience.

What makes for a faithful spouse, parent, friend? A faithful soldier who follows orders?

Read John 15:12-17

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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. These things I command you, so that you will love one another." John 15:12-17 ESV

Jesus says we will serve out of love. We are His friends if we love one another - which He commands. What are some reasons that you choose to serve or decide not to serve in certain areas?

We are no longer considered servants because Jesus tells us what He commands. Jesus has told us the whole story about what it means to be obedient. Love one another and in doing that bear fruit.

Jesus laid down His life for us in the war for our soul. What emotion or determination does that kind of sacrifice for you spur in you?

Jesus' love fuels us to love others. This is an obedient kind of love that leads to us being a friend of God.

What in your life is God asking you to lay down in order for you to love others?

What is keeping you from obedience to God?

Bearing fruit always involves pruning. And pruning can be painful. What kind of pruning is God doing in your life right now? (This is a pretty pointed question so be sure to handle the discussion using Scripture as the basis for your encouragement.)

Are you willing to lay it down now?

Are you willing to at least pray and ask God to give you the strength to lay it down? Or reveals to you what it is that you are holding on to.

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together.