

That You May Believe – Gospel of John

[John 15:1-16:4](#)

“That Your Joy My Be Full” – October 10, 2021



Introduction

In Luke 9:23 when Jesus says, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me,” some people think it sounds like an invitation to come and be miserable. That is the lie Satan wants you to hear. It is the very lie that he whispered to Eve in the garden. In a world that prizes individualism, the call of Jesus to deny ourselves invokes a fear of losing what makes me – me.

What if Jesus is telling us the truth in love and that in self-denial, we find our true self. (Luke 9:24) God's path to life and joy is counter intuitive. It requires faith. What is God's path to joy? What is His path to life?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Abide in Christ. Vs. 1-17
- II. Accept the hardships of Christ. Vs. 18-16:4

Read & Discuss

1) Read 15:1-17

To understand what Jesus is talking about in this metaphor, we have to go back to the Old Testament. Israel was the vine but they failed to keep God's commands. Jesus is the True Vine. Where Israel failed, Jesus takes over. The Father is the Gardener. He clears away the dead branches and prunes others for the good of the plant.

To abide in Jesus means to remain in God's love. “As the Father has loved me (Jesus), so have I loved you” (Vs. 9). We share in the same love that the Father has for the Son. (Matthew 3:17) We also abide in Jesus by keeping His command to “love one another as I have loved you” (Vs. 12; 17) This is where we find fullness of joy. (Vs. 11)

The fruitfulness of the branch is dependent on God's choice. We are chosen and appointed to bear fruit. It is not of our own works but only by God's grace. True Christians are secure in God's hand. (John 10).

When have you experienced God's “pruning?” How did you respond? How does it feel to know that we share the same love that the Father has for the Son? How can you share that love this week? What evidences of grace (fruit) do you see in your life, in the lives of your family, in the lives of other church members?

Additional Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:8-11, Ps. 16, Luke 9:23-26

2) Read 15:18 – 16:4

At the start of John 15 Jesus emphasizes the power of love. Now He talks about the power of hate. He doesn't tell us these things to discourage us, but so that we remember His words and have His joy.

The Light exposes sin. People are convicted of sin. The world wants to keep doing what they are doing. They hate the light. When you obey God, you are going in a way that is opposite of the world. The world will be hostile, hate and ridicule you for doing what is right. (Acts 5:41) The world can pressure you to conform.

How can we endure all of this? With the Helper. The Spirit bears witness to Jesus. You also will bear witness. That is why we are left behind - in order to testify of Jesus - what He came to do and the life He gives. Testifying of Jesus has eternal significance.

Application to help abide in Christ:

- Be conscious of your need for Jesus
- Hide God's Word in your heart. (Read, listen to, study, and memorize God's Word.)
- Pray God's Word.
- Prioritize the local church.

In what ways do you feel the pressure of the world to conform to its standard for living? How do you respond to the hatred of the world when choosing to obey the command of Jesus? With whom can you share the Good News of Jesus this week?

Additional Reading: Acts 5:17-42, Romans 12:2

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to John 16:5 - 33 "The Help of the Holy Spirit"
