

COURAGEOUS FAITH FOR US ALL

FEBRUARY 11

WITH GUEST PASTOR *Bryan Collier*

Courageous Faith

Date: February 11, 2024

Text: John 15

Big Idea:

Courageous faith can only come through one source- a deep abiding intimacy with Jesus. In a world where we are constantly bombarded with distractions, drawn away by temptations, and blinded by comfort or complacency, how can we begin to truly abide in Jesus? What would it look like for us to root and establish our lives in Him? How would this change the way we live?

Opening Questions:

1. Is “abiding” a passive or active verb? Defend your answer.

Notes on the Passage:

(Verses 15:1-3) Jesus begins by identifying Himself as the True Vine. There are many things we tend to root our identity in (our jobs, appearance, relationships) but Jesus alone is the One we can find life in. Jesus then goes on to explain how His Father is the vinedresser who takes away and prunes the vines. Takes away can arguably be translated “*lifts up*”; vinedressers would often lift up broken vines or those hidden in the darkness to the light so that they might bear fruit. Pruning is associated with the idea of cleansing- removing the dead parts so that new life can grow.

1. What are some things that you tend to find your identity in?
2. How does the translation of “lifts up” rather than “takes away” change your perspective on this passage? On the heart of the Father?
3. Have you ever experienced pruning or lifting up? Explain.

(Verses 15:5-8) Jesus goes on to explain the mutual relationship between He and His followers- if you abide in me, I will abide in you. He warns that apart from Him, you cannot please the Father, bear fruit, or have a fulfilling life. But if you live your life in Jesus (by growing a relationship with Him) you will bear much fruit.

1. What does it mean that our relationship with Jesus is mutual?
2. How do you build or grow a relationship with Jesus?

(Verses 15:10-11) Jesus concludes this part of the passage by explaining how everything we do should come from an overflow of love. We do not obey in order to be loved, but because we recognize the amazing love of God we cannot help but want to obey His commands. It is in this place that we begin to experience the beauty of intimacy with Jesus and joy from obedience.

1. Do you obey *for* love or *from* love? Explain?
2. Why do we find true joy when we obey Jesus?

Going Deeper:

1. How can you begin abiding in Jesus this week? What are practical steps you can take to begin growing in your relationship with Him?
2. What is the “fruit” we are called to bear? Where else does Scripture talk about fruit?

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3. Why do you think it is important for us to bear fruit? (Consider how a tree does not eat its own fruit but it feeds those around it. How might our fruit minister to others?)

Additional Resources:

[John 15:1-8: Abide in Christ – God Centered Life](#)- Devotion.

[The Vine and the Branches | John 15:1-15 \(youtube.com\)](#)- Video Illustration

Group Activity:

Describe the “vines” of your life. What are some of the places you have rooted your identity in? What are some of the broken places (wounds, secrets, scars) that need to be lifted up to the light? What are some of the vines that need to be pruned (addiction, sin, thought patterns)? What are some fruits you want to begin to bear?