

## Week 31

### **Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled**

Jesus has said that if we love Him we will keep His commandments, keeping His commandments gives evidence you love Him and you are His.

John 14:20

Jesus has promised He will never forsake us because He is giving us the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. We will know Him because He abides in us. Because He lives, we will live also.

John 14:21

What does He teach about those who keep His commandments?

Those who love Him keep His Word and the Father will love them. This loving Him describes the steady, faithful walk of His followers, doing His will and walking in His ways. Keeping a tight reign on our temper, our words and our actions, these are proof of our love for Jesus.

Please remember that keeping His words does not save us but it is the action of a person who is saved. Ephesians 2:8 by grace are you saved through faith.

There are special comforts for those who love Jesus and prove it by keeping His word, they will experience freedom from a troubled heart and the sense of the presence of God, and this is true happiness.

John 14:22

John tells us this comment was not made by the betraying Judas but by James' son. It sounds like the disciples still think He is going to set up an earthly kingdom. Jesus has been explaining that their idea, a revolution with Jesus taking over was not the plan.

John 14:23

Repeating, if we love Him, we will keep His word and the Father will love us, and the Son and Holy Spirit will come and abide with us. Believers are not ever abandoned.

This was a revolutionary idea, whoever heard of a God you can love, or one who loves or one who indwells a people? What a wonderful promise.

John 14:24

Obedience flows from love and trust. So if we do not keep His words, which God the Father gave Him to give to us, that is His commands, that proves we do not really love Him. This is serious; the evidence of loving Jesus is our obedience to His teachings.

### John 14:25-26

These men were about to experience some horrifying events; Jesus is trying to prepare them. Notice Jesus' promise; the Holy Spirit will indwell or live in believers and then He tells what the Holy Spirit will do. Have you ever wondered about the Holy Spirit, what is His purpose in my life? Here is one of His purposes and this is a great one. Here we learn how it was that the disciples were able to remember and record all they saw Jesus do, the Holy Spirit brought it to their remembrances. This is why we can trust the gospel record; the Holy Spirit brought to their mind what they saw and heard from Jesus. Have you ever had this experience? Perhaps you were telling someone about Jesus and suddenly a scripture popped into your mind, you have just experienced the Holy Spirit fulfilling one of His purposes in your life. Just as Jesus told the disciples; "you have not been forsaken" and this promise is for us also.

### John 14:27

Another reason we should not have a troubled heart? Because, He gives His peace, a very special gift only He can give. What is your idea of peace? Is it as the world gives? Is it security in this life, no unmet needs, no conflicts or problems, no illness or pain, no demands on your time? The peace Jesus promised is His peace, an inner calm, safety for your soul, confidence in God, a sense of direction and purpose, hope within conflicts, certain eternal life. The peace Jesus gives, the world can never give, although we all seem to chase it all the time.

Everyone wants peace don't they? The world provides the peace of escapism by daydreams or amusements. Jeremiah the prophet said in 6:14, peace, peace when there is no peace". The quest for peace has often motivated some the most terrible wars and conflicts in human history. The politicians think we can work our way to peace, their idea that if everyone cooperates we will get there someday, has never happened?

The peace Jesus offers is different. His peace was seen every day of His life; he did not run away from conflict, pain or death. Jesus peace came from His relationship with His Father and that is where our peace will come from as well. A verse to memorize is Jesus' promise "in this world you will have trouble, I have overcome the world".

### John 14:28

Jesus knows they are sad because He is leaving them but He wants them to understand He is joyful about returning to His Father, even if He must depart from them for a while. It wouldn't be long because all but John were martyred within a few years.

### John 14:29

Jesus, as any great leader is preparing His followers for His departure. He has spoken about the conflicts coming so that they have been warned. He is assuming nothing, He is preparing them.

John 14:30-31

The hour had come.

So He is not going to speak much more, because the Ruler of the World is coming. Who is this Ruler Jesus is referring to? It is Satan. He tried to overpower Jesus at the beginning of His ministry but was unable to do so. Since Jesus is sinless, the devil had no power over Him, which is to say, Satan has nothing in Him, the only human ever born about whom this is true. When Jesus died, Satan thought he had won, just proving how foolish he is, he did not recognize his defeat when it happened. Jesus defeated Satan's power over death by rising from the dead. How grateful we should be that we have a sinless, Substitute, Who carried our sin for us. The Father sees us in Him, unworthy though we are. We finish this chapter with the understanding of how little we really can comprehend of all Jesus has taught us about His peace and we ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these great truths, as we are able to understand them.

Reviewing the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter, what is the message for us? Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe first of all and then know He is preparing a place for us and He is going to come again and take us there so we can be with Him. We see that we must believe He is the only way to the Father. He has shown us He is God. So the message is; don't be troubled, believe, He is One with the Father.

How do you know He is One with the Father, His works prove He is One, He speaks the Words of the Father. Lastly, He has told us that love and obedience go hand in hand; if we love Him we will keep His commandments. The Father and Son will abide in us and now He promises the ministry of the Holy Spirit the One who will teach and bring all things to remembrance. As He lives we will live.

He makes sure we understand we have been given His peace.

Do you believe these things? Or do you have a troubled heart?

We look now at the allegory of the Vine and the Branches, if you abide you will bear fruit. Does your life give evidence to the fact you belong to Him? Do you have the fruit of repentance obvious in your life?

What is an allegory; a story under the image of another, a story that has a hidden meaning. Literally there is a surface story and a deeper truth to discover.

And so they headed out to the Garden of Gethsemane. It seems most likely that the teachings of John 15-16 were delivered while they were walking.

First let's look at this passage in its context.

By context I mean the setting of this passage and what has been said by Jesus to the disciples in the previous two chapters. The context is the time; it is the night of betrayal by Judas and before the crucifixion. The place is walking from the place where they

had the last Supper toward the Garden of Gethsemane, the events have been foot washing, prophesy, Judas departure and continued teaching. I remind you that everything from John 13 through 16 was one discussion and we must keep the flow of it in our minds.

John 15:1

There are some different views of this passage. First and foremost it is not teaching that you can lose your salvation, which I intend to prove to you today.

Jesus is the Vine, God is the vinedresser, we are the branches. Jesus explained this part.

John 15:2 first of all,

When Jesus says the Father takes away branches that do not bear fruit it seems to indicate that a true believer can lose your salvation. Remember Jesus was speaking to the disciples after He washed their feet John 13:10 and He said, you are clean but not all, then Judas left.

John 15:3

What does this word clean mean? It is the Greek work KATHAROS, which means purified, free from corrupt desire, sin and guilt. So this condition of being clean described all but one disciple according to Jesus and we now know that Judas was the one who was not clean, that is purified, and free from sin and guilt. John 12:30, speaking of Judas, it says he went out immediately. So that left 11 disciples and now all were clean because the unclean one was gone.

Jesus is speaking here to His 11 disciples who He describes as "all are clean", why did He say this? Because the Father had taken away the one who was unclean, Judas had no fruit of repentance, he was never saved. What are some of the fruit of repentance; Galatians 2 says; love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. In addition there is a new heart, obedience, answered prayer, Holy Spirit indwelling.

It is never acceptable to allow an allegory to contradict a very clear repeated teaching. First of all; Jesus has told us that we cannot lose our salvation, check out some of the passages; John 6:37 "all who have come to me I will certainly not cast out" and John 6:39. This is the will of Him who sent Me that of all He has given me I lose nothing" therefore, these words, "takes away", cannot mean loss of salvation

What are some proofs that Jesus has you and you have Him? John 13, the proof is love, John 14, keep the commandments/obedience, John 15, fruit,

John 15:4

If you do not abide, there is no fruit. However, if you bear fruit you will be pruned to bear more fruit. The idea is continually and repeatedly bearing fruit. The union between Christ and believer should be this close, this real; in ourselves we have no life. This shows us that God is always working with us to increase our holiness because He is a loving Father.

Trials are one of the ways He prunes us, makes us more holy. By trials He weans us away from the world and draws us to Jesus, He purges us and makes us more fruitful. He will not spare the pruning knife if He sees we need it.

15:5

Did you notice Jesus said you can do nothing on your own? He didn't say, "you can't do much", no He said, "you can do nothing". The branch who abides has strength, vigor and beauty. The sap that flows from the root, through the vine to the branches maintains all the leaves, buds, blossoms and fruit. These are signs of abiding.

John 15:6

Here we are told there are false branches, which appear to be joined to the vine and yet bear no fruit. There are men and women who appear to be members of Christ and yet will finally be shown to have had no vital union with Him; they have no fruit, no life. Again, Judas was removed because he had no fruit.

John 15:7

Abiding in Christ gives assurance of success in prayer. Constant close communion with Christ, leaning on Him, resting in Him, pouring our hearts out to Him, is our habit of abiding.

Also remember that fruit bearing brings glory to God. Do you want to glorify God with your life?

Love Jesus, obey Him, and abide in Him.

John 15:8

Fruit bearing proves we are His disciples.

We have the opportunity to be connected to the source of all life, Jesus Christ, in Him is life, John 1:12. He is the root, and the great vine in which we, the branches must abide that is live.

Early this morning I went out to my garden and looked at my perennials. I noticed that several needed pruning. There were branches, which were hooked to the main stem that had no leaves and no blossoms. These branches had been sitting there looking like they belonged until the sap rose and all the ones who were alive, really abiding, started producing green leaves and then it became obvious which ones needed to be pruned, the ones with no fruit, had to go. Why did I remove them? I gave them several weeks

to find out if they would produce, they didn't. So now I know that there is no life in them, and they will interfere with the branches which are alive, taking water and nutrients away from living branches, blocking sunlight and air, they just have to go. They will be cast out and burned.

Lets sum up this teaching, belief=life, no believe=no life, the life He gives is eternal; if there is life there will be fruit. The central point in this allegory is, Jesus is showing that He is the source of life and we must abide in Him to bear fruit.

How do we understand this? A person possessing eternal life is secure in Jesus, He has given proof. Our reassurance is that our abiding produces fruit. Again the fruit which the Holy Spirit in us produces is; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Judas appeared to be a branch but he did not abide and had no fruit and that proved he did not have life, he was not a true branch, he was taken away. Jesus is the source of life and abiding in Him produces fruit. Man has the responsibility to abide in Jesus and the result is fruit.