

A Disciple...Will Be Like His Teacher

Introduction

I. Opening Thoughts

- A. John 15 - Jesus begins his final walk with his disciples as they leave the upper room and go out towards the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane
- B. There are 11 men walking with Jesus. Men that had dedicated so much time and effort into following and serving this Jesus. Jesus has shown these men time and time again who he truly is and where he comes from. They continue to not understand and question. Jesus has words of remembrance for these men in John 15, words of comfort but words of choice and challenge as well.
 - a) John 15:20a - [20] Remember the word that I said to you: **'A servant is not greater than his master...'**
 - (1) Luke 6:40 - [40] A disciple is not above his teacher, **but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.** (ESV)
- C. Such a wonderful offer. We can become like Jesus. But what will it take to become like our master? What will happen if we are like our master?
 - a) John 15:20 - [20] Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.'
If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.(ESV)

II. Purpose

- A. As Jesus' time draws to a close with his closest followers, he very clearly tells them it is time to either abide with him as master/teacher, or leave, there is no middle ground. The questions are asked, will you abide with your teacher, will you persevere with your teacher? The time is now, are you ready to become like Jesus?

Lesson

I. Abide With The Master

A. Becoming a Branch

- 1. As Jesus begins his walk with his disciples, he uses the things he would likely see that very night to begin his discussion of what it will take to become like him.
 - a) John 15:1 - [1] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. (ESV)
 - b) John 15:4 - [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. (ESV)
- 2. It all starts by attaching yourself to the vine. Have you connected yourself to the one and only vine? Have you begun to abide with Jesus and he with you?
 - (1) John 14:6 - [6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

B. Bearing Fruit

- 1. Once you are attached to the vine, what must happen if you are to continue to abide with Jesus?
 - a) John 15:2-3 - [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. [3] Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (ESV)
 - b) John 15:5-7 - [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. [6] If anyone does not abide in me he

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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. (ESV)

2. Faith without works is dead. A branch without fruit is dead. You can't abide in Jesus, if Jesus doesn't abide in you.
 - (1) Romans 11:17–24 - [17] But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, [18] do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. [19] Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." [20] That is true. **They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith.** So do not become proud, but fear. [21] **For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.** [22] Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, **provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.** [23] **And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.** [24] **For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.** (ESV)
3. What causes a dead branch? It stops receiving the necessary nutrients from the roots.
4. What causes a Christian to be dead? Unbelief. Once again showing us that belief is so much more than a mental acceptance, but rather a life changing event. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? It means to make him your teacher and master, to abide in his word and he will abide in you.

C. The Greatest Fruit

1. What is true love of God? That we place his will and needs and desires above our own. We become like our teacher for that is love.
 - a) John 15:9–10 - [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. (ESV)
2. Jesus loved the Father and shared his love with all mankind, by laying down his life
 - a) John 15:12–13 - [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. (ESV)
3. Are we willing to share the love that we have for God, not by dying, though we may, but by just telling others of this perfect never ending love that saved our souls?
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 - [1] If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (ESV)
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 13:8 - [8] Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)
 - (3) 1 Corinthians 13:13 - [13] So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (ESV)
4. Are you beginning to become more like your teacher? Or are you beginning to realize just how far you have to go? Are you growing, are you changing?

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D. The Joy Of Servitude

1. Look to the joy of naming Jesus as your master and teacher
 - a) John 15:11 - [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (ESV)
 - b) John 15:15–17 - [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. (ESV)
2. As you submit yourself to your God, you are an unworthy and undeserving servant, but how does God see you? He sees us as sons and daughters.
3. This great privilege to be a friend of God, to remove the hostility that sin causes, has been extended to all men, but a choice remains. Just as Jesus chose the 12, they had to make the decision to either become like him or to deny and betray him. Will you choose to bear fruit that will abide? Will you choose to be called a son or daughter of God?
 - (1) Galatians 4:1–7 - [1] I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, [2] but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. [3] In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. [4] But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6] **And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” [7] So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.** (ESV)

II. Persevere With The Master

A. Persecution Arises

1. Why would I ever choose to not do the will of God? Why would I ever not abide in Jesus? Such a wonderful offer. We can become like Jesus. But what will it take to become like our master? What will happen if we are like our master?
 - a) John 15:18–19 - [18] “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (ESV)
 - b) John 15:21–25 - [21] But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. [22] If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. [23] Whoever hates me hates my Father also. [24] If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. [25] But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’ (ESV)
2. Are you prepared for the battle? Jesus doesn’t want his disciples to be caught unaware. If I am your master, you will look like me and that means persecutions are coming.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 3:12 - [12] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (ESV)
3. Why do persecutions come? Because we will be like our teacher. This is both a comfort and a challenge.

B. But You Are Not Alone

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1. Yes persecutions and trials and temptations will come your way because Satan hated seeing Jesus and he hates seeing anyone that resembles him walking the earth today. The Spirit and the Son stand with you.
 - a) John 15:26–27 - [26] “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. [27] And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (ESV)
 - (1) Romans 8:26–27 - [26] Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. [27] And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (ESV)
 - (2) Hebrews 4:15–16 - [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

Conclusion

I. Become Like The Master

1. If you believe in Jesus and make him your master, yes you will be persecuted, but you can make it through any trial that is thrown your way because becoming like your teacher means that you are faithful no matter the consequences
 - a) John 16:1–4a - [1] “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. [2] They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. [3] And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. [4] But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you...
 - (1) Hebrews 12:1–2 - [1] Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (ESV)
2. Jesus suffered more than we could ever imagine, but he remained faithful. He continued to abide and persevere through everything.
 - a) John 15:8 - [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)
3. If you don't look like Jesus, is he your master? If you are not growing to be like Jesus in all respects, are you his disciple?