

The Final Words of Jesus  
Session 9: John 16: 1-33  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021  
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I. Setting of John 15

- A. Setting: In 14.31 the Lord says: 'Arise, let us go hence', however, some believe that the Lord and His disciples remained in the upper room until the end of chapter 17. WE Vine: This does not necessarily mean they left the upper room immediately. The greater likelihood is that they lingered there for continuing discourse and the prayer of John 17. If they stayed within the vicinity of the house, there would very likely be a vine growing up the side leading to the remarks of John 15. Others, in agreement with Vine, suggest the comment does not signal a real change of location, but is anticipative of 18.1. But there is perhaps more evidence to suggest that the Lord and His disciples did move out of the upper room at this point. The teaching of John 15-17 emphasises the themes of rejection, suffering, discipleship and witness – themes more fitting for utterance in the outside world. (<https://bibleclassexposition.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/8-upper-room-ministry-john-15-1-8.pdf>)

II. Jesus is the true source of life (15:1-4).

*John 15:1-4 - "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (3) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (4) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

*A. I am the true vine* – The true source of life. Being in Him is the only way to experience eternal life (17:3). Jesus spoke of a grapevine in describing the nation of Israel in the Old and New Testament. He is the true life source of Israel along with all the nations of the earth. Israel was not able to consistently walk in agreement with God and produce the fruit of His righteousness. Jesus did this.

*B. My Father is the vinedresser* – The Father is the One who grows us in Jesus through His Spirit (14:16-18).

*C. Abides in me... abides in the vine* – As disciples of Jesus, we are to abide in Him the way a branch abides in a vine. We are to be in Jesus continually. I find breathing to be a good example of what abiding looks like. We are not always aware that we are breathing, yet our body does it continually. Abiding is like this. We do not have to be thinking about abiding continually to be abiding. We abide by the Spirit in us (1 John 3:24; 4:13).

*D. Fruit* – The purpose of fruit is to provide life for others. The fruit contains seeds which reproduce replicas of the original. In context to John 15, the fruit is making disciples (15:8, 16) from abiding in Jesus' love (15:9) and asking (15:7) as we love one another the way Jesus loves us (Joh 15:12, 17). John 15 fruit: Receiving Jesus' love through daily dependency on Him resulting in loving our neighbor as ourselves through Him (1 John 4:9).

1. We desire to make a lasting impact. Everyone in Christ can make a lasting impact as they make it the aim of their life to abide in Jesus.

*E. Clean* – Jesus is referencing John 13:10. There, He told Peter he was clean but said not everyone was clean, referring to Judas Iscariot. I believe Jesus is highlighting the sincerity of Peter and the disciple's hearts. At this point Judas had left. They were clean in the sense that they believed in who Jesus was and were following Him.

*F. Branch... he takes away... He prunes* – The Greek word for take away in this verse also means "to lift up". In the spring the vinedresser lifts up the lower unfruitful branches and prunes the fruitful branches. The vine bears more fruit as a result. The imagery Jesus gives reveals the tender care and the wisdom of the vinedresser to know what needs to be done. The aim of the branch should be to abide in the vine and allow the vinedresser through His Spirit to grow us and produce much fruit through us.

1. 15:3 points to our justification in Christ. 15:2 points to our sanctification as we abide in Jesus and the truth of our justification.

II. Jesus manifests His life through us as we abide in Him (15:5-6) as seen in a lifestyle that prioritizes conversation with Him and obedience to Him (15:7-8).

*John 15:5-8 - "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

*A. You are the branches* – A vine without branches cannot reproduce more of itself. Jesus reveals Himself to mankind through partnership with His people.

*B. Without me you can do nothing* – Jesus always wants us with Him. He never tires of us. He does not want us to produce fruit for Him but with Him. He modeled this relationship for us as He walked the earth (5:19-20). In God's eyes we are not defined by the fruit we bear. We are defined by our dependency on Jesus. Fruit will be the natural overflow.

*C. If anyone does not abide in me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered* – If a person chooses to no longer believe in who Jesus is and what He has done for them then they cannot abide in Jesus. They are not agreeing with what Jesus did for them in becoming sin for them and condemning sin in them (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:3). As a result they cannot bear His nature and produce fruit that will release life to others.

*D. If you abide in Me* – We are to put healthy effort into the relationship. We are to focus on abiding as our life aim.

E. *And my words abide in you* - The things Jesus spoke from the Father through the Spirit (14:10, 24).

F. *you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you* - As we abide, we desire what Jesus desires and this is our foundation for asking. Jesus desires to bring glory to the Father (14:13). This is to be our motive behind our asking. We are not to put limits on God in our asking (14:12-14). Jesus glorified by the Father as He walked the earth by abiding in His love through the Spirit, speaking His words and doing works that confronted the kingdom of darkness. We are to do the same (14:12-14; 15:5, 9, 13).

1. This intimacy of answered prayer is how Jesus walked the earth. He found deep joy in His relationship with the Father and the Father with Him. The Father would show Jesus what He was doing, Jesus would agree in prayer, and then it would be done.

G. *By this My Father is glorified* - As we abide in Jesus and develop the intimacy of hearing His voice, we ask and the Father answers (15:7-8; 14:12-14). He answers by releasing His power in word in deed through us, inviting others into a life of abiding.

H. *that you bear much fruit* - Fruit is produced from abiding and asking. In context to John 15, the fruit is making disciples (15:8, 16) from the posture of abiding in His love (15:9) and asking (15:7) as we love one another the way Jesus loves us (Joh 15:12, 17). John 15 fruit: Receiving Jesus' love through daily dependency on Him resulting in loving our neighbor as ourselves though Him.

I. *so you will be my disciples* - Disciples of Jesus abide in His love, are filled with His desires, and ask to grow in love for themselves and others as they walk with Him daily in the specific assignment given to them in His Great Commission that will result in His dream to have all the nations as His inheritance.

III. Jesus commands us to abide in His love because He knows this is where we find ultimate satisfaction and success (15:9-11).

*John 15:9-11 - "As the Father loved Me, I also have 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. (11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

A. *As the Father has loved me* - The Father loves Jesus wholeheartedly. This practically means that the Father was always available to Jesus. He was always there for Jesus by His Spirit to empower Jesus to resist sin to the point of shedding His blood (Hebrews 9:14; 12:4).

*B. I also have loved you* – Jesus loves us the way the Father loves Him. He is always there for us by His Spirit to empower to resist sin and live in His grace and truth. As He was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father He will raise us with Him on the last day.

1. The love with which the Father and Jesus love us is great yet we can know it and rely on it by the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:1; 4:15-16).

*C. abide in My love* – Remain in Jesus and His definition of love. As God, Jesus became a man and laid down His life for us to have eternal life in Him (1 John 3:16). There is no greater love, no greater commitment (15:13). Jesus desires us to be confident in His love (1 John 4:15-16).

*1 John 4:16 - And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

*D. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love* – Jesus connects abiding in His love to obedience (14:15, 23-24; 15:10). Jesus is asking us to do what He did. He kept the Father's command to abide in His love and through that dependency, loved His neighbor as Himself (15:10).

1. We cannot say we are abiding in Jesus' love if we are not growing in the command to love our neighbor as ourselves. As we abide in Jesus' love, we love ourselves and then we love our neighbor as ourselves through deep dependency and confidence in Jesus' love (1 John 4:9).

*E. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full* – Jesus tells us of His desire for us to remain in His love because He knows it is the only way we can truly love ourselves and love our neighbor as ourselves. Being able to love God the way He loves us, love ourselves the way He love us, and love our neighbor the way He loves us is the place of full joy, the place of discovering the true meaning of life.

1. The way to maximize the bearing of fruit is to remain in Jesus' love, love ourselves in His love, and love our neighbor as ourselves all through an ongoing conversation with Jesus by His Spirit in us (15:5-11). This is how Jesus walked the earth. He had an ongoing acknowledgment of the Father with Him as He fellowshiped with the Spirit. In this He would ask/agree with the Father's desires and see them answered. His focus was not only in answered prayers but conversation. His joy was in the conversation and He knew answered prayer would result from the conversation. He invites us into the same conversation and same joy with the same result of answered prayers (14:12-14; 15:7-11; 16:23-27).

2. Fullness of joy is only found in the fellowship of the Father and the Son through the Spirit (1 John 1:1-3).

IV. We follow Jesus' command to love each other as He has loved us (15:12, 17) as we abide in His love and are taught by Him (15:9, 13-16).

*John 15:12-17 - This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (13) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (15) No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I 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 remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (17) These things I command you, that you love one another.*

*A. love one another as I have loved you* – Jesus reiterates the command He had given them in John 13:34. He says it twice in this section (15:12, 17). If we receive the love He has for us (14:15; 15:9), we will let Him live through us in loving our neighbor as ourselves. We will love ourselves with His love and this will overflow to others.

1. The one another is speaking about believers. We love one another and it is a testimony to the world (17:21-23). We also love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48).

*B. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends* – Jesus loved His disciples by laying down His life for them (1 John 3:16). This was not just hanging on the cross. He loved them every day leading up to the cross. He loved them by being committed to them, listening to them, teaching them, encouraging them, etc. He spent time with them while leading them to the truth rather than compromising the truth. We are to love each other in the same way.

*C. I have called you friends* – Jesus calls friends those who pursue His commands with a sincere heart. Friends instead of servants. Servants are given commands without knowing the heart behind the commands. As friends, Jesus invites us to know the depth of the Father's heart behind His pure commands.

1. David walked as friend of God as he desired to grow in the ways of God (Psalm 25:4, 14).

*Psalm 25:14 - The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant (ESV).*

*D. all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you* – Jesus learned from the Father as He abided in His love through fellowship with the Spirit (5:19-20). As we fellowship with the Spirit, we are taught by the Spirit as He opens up the Scriptures, reveals the ways of God to us, and conforms us the likeness of Christ (16:13-15; Romans 8:26-29). The main thing Jesus learned from the Father was how to abide in His love, hear His voice, ask/agree with His voice, and follow.

*E. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit* – Jesus really is for us! We did not choose Him and we cannot bear fruit apart from Him. We are defined by how we receive from Jesus not by how much fruit we bear. Fruit will be inevitable as we abide in His love.

*F. that your fruit should remain* – All that we do in agreement with Jesus living in and through us (Galatians 2:20; 1 John 4:19).

*G. that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you* – Jesus reiterates the promise of intimacy through answered prayers that originate from abiding in Jesus' words (Joh 15:7-8). The motivation for the prayers is for the Son to bring glory to the Father (14:13)

#### **V. John 15:18-16:4 – The World Hates those who Abide in Jesus' Love**

- I. Jesus reveals the relationship He has with His Father in John 14:5-14, inviting us into the same intimacy. He gives more detail in chapters 14-17.
- II. John 14 is the message that we have the same relationship Jesus has with the Father through His Spirit and John 15:1-17 gives us a natural picture of what this relationship looks like and requires.
  - A. Looks like: Complete dependence on Jesus as branch abides in a vine (15:4-9).
  - B. Requires: Agreement with Jesus through complete dependence resulting in experiencing His love for us, loving Him back, and loving our neighbors as ourselves (15:5, 9-17).
- III. Summary of John 15:18-16:4 - The world hates us because it hates Jesus and the relationship He shares with His Father (15:18-19). We have the same effect on the world Jesus did because we have the same relationship with His Father that He has (15:20-21). Jesus' relationship with His Father revealed the truth of man's opposition to God (15:22-25). The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus through us (15:26-27). Jesus tells us of the opposition we face so that we will not be offended and go astray when we are opposed (16:1-4).
  - A. In this section, a true reality of abiding is that we will be misunderstood, persecuted, and hated just as Jesus was when He walked the earth. This reveals that we carry the same level of relationship with the Father that Jesus carried as He walked the earth. The world hates us because it hates Jesus and the Father (15:18, 20, 21, 24; 16:3). Those who think they know God through religious rituals and human achievement will persecute those who humbly walk in abiding relationship with Jesus (16:2).
  - B. The world hates us because it hates Jesus and the relationship He shares with His Father (15:18-19).

*John 15:18-19 - "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

C.*The world* – In John, Jesus uses “world” to refer this present evil age (Galatians 1:4) and to the inhabitants of the earth who are not in relationship with Him (3:16, 17, 19; 6:33, 51; 7:7; 8:12, 23, 26; 9:5, 39; 10:36; 11:9; 12:25, 31, 46, 47; 14:17, 19; 14:27, 30, 31; 15:18, 19; 16:8, 11, 20, 21, 28; 16:33; 17:5, 6, 9, 11-16, 18, 21, 23-25; 18:20, 36-37). When we are chosen out of the world, we are born of God and brought out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light (1:10-12; 18:36; Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9). We are then in the world as a light but not of the world (17:14).

D.*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you* – God loved us before we loved Him (1 John 4:19). Loving Him, the world hates us. The world hated Jesus’ dependency on the Father, the same is true for the abiding disciple of Jesus (15:20). Hate means a desire to harm.

E.*the world would love its own* – The world cannot accept those who depend on and follow the leadership of the Spirit within them (14:17). Trusting in Him to provide, direct, and protect is His own timing and way is diametrically opposed to the systems of false peace and safety that men implement as they try to rule apart from God. The world lifts up those who do not trust in their Maker.

F.*I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you* – Jesus mentioned earlier that He chose the disciples, they did not choose Him (15:16). He said this in context to teaching them to abide in His love as a branch remains in a vine (15:5, 9).

G.The world hates those who have come to Jesus and are growing in dependency on Him. Jesus does not choose us because He likes us more than others. He chooses us in the sense that we say yes to His leadership. God does draw us but we have to agree to His drawing by saying yes to give our life to Him.

H.We have the same effect on the world Jesus did because we have the same relationship with His Father that He has (15:20-21).

*John 15:20-21 - 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 keep yours also. (21) But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.*

I. 'A servant is not greater than his master' – Jesus used this phrase in John 13:16. We are to walk in humility and love toward one another through Jesus (13:13-17). Walking in this way will lead to some persecuting us and some joining us in keeping Jesus' words. As we walk in humility and the love of Jesus, those who persecute us have no excuse for why they are raging against us (15:22-25). Their only hope is the mercy of God which we show to them by not taking revenge on them (Matthew 5:7).

J. *If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also* - What honor Jesus gives to us! Jesus is equally effective through us as when He walked the earth in a body. He now lives through the bodies of His disciples. As we fellowship with the Spirit, speaking God words and His works comes through us, people either persecute Jesus in us or follow Jesus in us.

K. *all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me* – Jesus' name causes division. People of the world persecute the people of the kingdom of God because they do not know the King of the Kingdom.

IV. Jesus' relationship with His Father revealed the truth of man's opposition to God (15:22-25).

*John 15:22-25 - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. (23) He who hates Me hates My Father also. (24) If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. (25) But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'*

*A. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin... If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin* – Jesus spoke the Father's words and did the Father's works (5:17; 14:10, 24). As He did, the people rejected Him as the Christ.

1. They would have no sin - This does not mean they had no sin (Romans 3:23). They were guilty of sin in the sense that they rejected Jesus as the Christ.

B. *He who hates Me hates My Father also* – Jesus is the testimony God has given of Himself (17:3; 1 John 5:9-12).

*1 John 5:11-12 - And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

C. '*THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE*' – Jesus quoting Psalm 69:4. When the long awaited Savior Israel was searching for came, they did not receive Him (1:10-11). They did not receive His words or His deeds (Deuteronomy 18:18; Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18). Jesus, as God in the flesh, revealed the truth of man's opposition to God their Savior.



V.The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus through us (15:26-27).

*John 15:26-27 - "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (27) And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

*A.But when the Helper comes... He will testify about me –* Jesus testified of the Father by the Spirit and the Spirit testifies of Jesus through those who fellowship with Him. The Spirit does not testify of other ways to God. He testifies of one way to God—Jesus alone. The spirit (breath, wind) of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 19:10). The spirit of prophecy is about the eternal plan of God to bring all things in heaven and on earth under the leadership of Jesus (Ephesians 1:9-10; 3:11). The testimony of Jesus is the gospel (Romans 1:1-4, 16-17; 3:21-22; 1 Corinthians 1:17-24). The gospel concerns Jesus Christ as the Eternal King giving His life for the world to return to fellowship with their Maker (Revelation 1:5-7). This take place with the gospel of this kingdom reaches every people group (Matthew 24:14).

*B.the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father –* The Spirit of truth testifies of the truth Himself (14:6). The Spirit goes out from the Father Himself by way of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

*C.And you also will bear witness –* By the Spirit we bear witness of the faithful witness (Revelation 1:5). This witness will be resisted by some and received by some (15:22).

VI.Jesus tells us of the opposition we face so that we will not be offended and go astray when we are opposed (16:1-4).

*John 16:1-4 - "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. (2) They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. (3) And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. (4) But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. "And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.*

*A.These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble –* In His kindness, Jesus gave the first disciples and us these words so that we will not stumble in unbelief when those who claim to know God rage against our desire to abide in God's love and love our neighbor as ourselves. Resistance is normal and a sign of the power of God's word that confronts the kingdom of darkness.

*B.They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service –* The synagogue system was established when Israel was ousted from the land of Israel and the temple was destroyed. In Jesus' day there were Jewish synagogues scattered throughout the Roman Empire. In the book of Acts we find that some people in the synagogues who thought they knew God staunchly opposed those who knew God through salvation in Jesus. Being ousted from the synagogues could cause questions to arise about being in the truth. Jesus was giving them assurance ahead of time that they would be on the right path (16:4).

1. Paul, who was a zealous Jew, violently opposed those who knew God. He was saved and became the premier pioneer of spreading the gospel to the Gentile world. He would usually go first to synagogues when he entered a new region. The book of Acts gives us details of how he was fiercely opposed at times from people in these synagogues.

*C. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. - Those who read the Scriptures every Sabbath did not really know the Holy One of Israel (Father and Jesus) (John 5:37-40)*

*D. "And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you - The brunt of resistance was toward Jesus. With His departure and indwelling by the Spirit, the resistance would now be toward Jesus in the disciples.*