

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Last Words: Greater Love

Last time...while walking from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus continued His Last Words to the 11 disciples

The True Vine, the Husbandman, the branches, and fruit...which the Vine produces and the branches bear when they/we abide/continue/remain in Jesus

This time...Jesus and the 11 are still walking as Jesus speaks of a Greater Love

We are still in John 15

v9-11 My love...My commandments...My joy:

In these 3 verses, 3 things are interwoven:

1. My love
2. My commandments
3. My joy

My love:

As the Father has loved Jesus

John 10:17 **Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again**

so Jesus has loved His disciples

John 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end

And Jesus' disciples are told to continue/abide/remain in His love

How are Jesus' disciples to abide/continue/remain in His love?

My commandments:

By keeping/obeying His commandments

Deut 11:1 Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always

John 14:15

John 14:21

Just as Jesus has kept/obeyed His Father's commandments, thereby abiding/continuing/remaining in the Father's love

My joy:

“that”...the purpose/reason Jesus spoke v9 and v10, His intended result (regarding “My love” and “My commandments”):

So that, in order that

- “My joy” (radiant cheer and delight) will remain/continue/abide in His disciples
- your joy would be full

What is Jesus’ joy?

John 4:34 **My meat (sustenance) is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work**

Jesus loves the Father (John 14:31)

Jesus rejoiced to do the will of His Father

Joy is in loving and obeying the Father

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness (1 Cor 1:30), and peace (Is 9:6, Rom 5:1), and joy in the Holy Ghost. (love and obedience)

Also, consider Jesus’ joy in:

Ps 16:7-11 (pre-Cross) in God the Father’s presence

Ps 21:1 in God’s strength and salvation (from death)

Ps 30:5b after weeping (sorrow and suffering) this night

Ps 126:5 by sowing and reaping (John 12:24, 32)

Matt 13:44 of the Purchaser and the purchased

Luke 15:4-7 for the repentance of a sinner

Heb 12:2 the joy (radiant cheer and delight) set before Jesus whereby He endured the Cross

John 15:11 is hours before the Cross

Zeph 3:17 for those who trust in Him, love Him

When we are “in Christ”, Jesus’ joy is our joy

Rom 5:8-11 for atonement (sins covered by Blood of the Lamb)

Rom 15:13 for God’s hope and peace by faith in Jesus

Gal 5:22 fruit of the Spirit for His witnesses and ambassadors

Acts 13:47-52 in doing greater works (John 14:12) and

Acts 5:41-42 persecution

How does Jesus' joy remain in us and how is our joy full?

- By abiding/continuing/remaining in Christ
- By decreasing and Jesus increasing (John 3:30)
- By the hope/certainty of a Risen Savior (John 16:20-22)

Living "above the dust"...

walking in the Spirit, led by the Spirit

where the joy of the LORD is our strength (Neh 8:10)

v12-13 as I have loved you...Greater love:

As Jesus told them in John 13:34-35, He tells them again

His commandment is to love one another...as He has loved them

"My love", "My commandment", and "My joy" is, succinctly: Greater Love

What is "Greater love"?

- Jesus' love (v9)...for the Father and for mankind
- the Father's love (v10, Rom 8:5)...for Jesus and Adam's race
- the Self-sacrificing love of laying down one's life for others
 - 1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death
 - 1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren

v14 My friends if you do:

Now woven into "My love", My commandments", and "My joy" is "My friends"

You are "My friends"

- continue/abide/remain in "My love" (v9)
- obey "My commandments" (v10, 12)
- full of "My joy" (v11)

provided you...do all I command you (v12)

Ps 103:17-18 But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them

"do"...literally hundreds of times in Scripture

What is the evidence of being the friend of Jesus?

Doing...obeying

Which requires loving and willing submission

These friends referred to themselves as “bondservants” in the
Epistles

Obedience to the Word of God is the evidence of a disciple abiding in
Christ and Christ abiding in a disciple

v15 I call you not servants...I have called you friends:

I call you not servants but friends

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham
believed God, and it was imputed unto him for
righteousness (Gen 15:6): and he was called the Friend
of God (Gen 18:17, before destruction of Sodom)

Friends walk together (Amos 3:3)

For God's new work

Is 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth;
shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the
wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert

is a new people (the Church, Jew and Gentile)

The early Church was predominantly Jewish, but they are not servants in the
Lord's work

Lev 25:55 For unto me the children of Israel *are* servants; they
are my servants whom I brought forth out of the
land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God

they are friends

Israel did not know what their God was doing regarding

- redemption and salvation of fallen man
- The Messiah
- grace

They were searching Scripture to try and figure it out (1 Peter 1:9-11)

Prophetic Scripture is “cloudy” (1 Cor 13:12a) that gets more clear the
closer comes the time of fulfillment

But the Church (Jesus is the Sure Foundation and the Apostles are the pillars and
builders) is told by God what He is doing

- by Jesus Christ in His ministry (Gospels)
- by the Holy Spirit in His ministry (Acts thru Revelation)

v16 I have chosen you:

Jesus has previously told them this (John 6:70)

Now, with Judas not continuing/remaining/abiding, Jesus repeats

Eph 1:1-2 1st sentence

Eph 1:3-12 2nd sentence

Eph 1:4 1st blessing: chosen

According to the foreknowledge of the Omniscient God

But now Jesus supplements His repeated saying

ordained you that...bring forth fruit...remain...ask:

In addition to choosing these 11, Jesus has ordained/appointed them

For what?

“that”, in order that, for His intended purpose of:

- go...into the world, will be sent by the Son as the Father sent the Son
- bring forth fruit (v5 ,8)
- your fruit should remain/continue/abide...here we are!
- whatever you ask in My name...repeating Ch 14:12-14 and Ch 15:7 regarding – “greater works” (of Jesus, Acts 1:1)

v17 love one another:

Repeating John 13:34-35 and John 15:12-13

1 Cor 13:13 And now abideth (continues/remains) faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity (*agape*)

Greater Love

Application

1. The Father’s desired fruit in our lives, the fruit that glorifies the Father, is His love
from Jesus
to/thru us
to/thru others (the world)

Jesus’ love to/thru us to others...how do we do that?

v13 lay our lives down

Matt 16:24-25 lose our lives (will) for His

Rom 12:1-3, 9-10, 13-21

1 Thes 5:14-22

2. My love, My commandments, My joy...My friends,
bearing fruit that remains/continues/abides (v16)
lasting fruit, not fleeting fruit

Joy is of the Spirit

- transcending all circumstances
- enduring
- radiant cheer and delight

Happiness is of the flesh (emotions)

- circumstantial
- fleeting
- unstable (James 1:8)

The disciples of Jesus Christ are instructed to go into a lost and dying world with the Good News of Jesus Christ, being Christ-like as they are led by the Holy Spirit

Abiding/continuing/remaining in the True Vine so that the Life and Nature of the Vine would bear fruit displayed before God and man in their lives

And that fruit...the fruit of the Spirit...should remain

The fruit should not be fleeting...here today, gone tomorrow,
not lasting unto the end (John 13:1)

Lasting fruit vs fleeting fruit

Fleeting fruit: the work of man, carnal

Luke 6:46 **And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves

Gal 3:1-3 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

The falling away of Christian “influencers” in a time of Amos 8:11:

- authors (Joshua Harris)
- worship song writers (Marty Sampson of Hillsong)
- worship leaders (Evan Wickham)

May the Lord restore unto them the joy of His salvation (Ps 51:12)

Lasting fruit: the work of the Spirit, spiritual

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

How many people who responded to the preaching of the Apostle Paul were lasting vs fleeting...faithful and loyal to the end vs fell away back to the world?

How many people who responded to DL Moody and Charles Finney were lasting vs fleeting?

How many people who went forward in a Billy Graham Crusade were lasting vs fleeting?

How many people who went forward in a Harvest Crusade were lasting vs fleeting?

In the history of Calvary Ahwatukee, how many people have been lasting vs fleeting?

Fleeting fruit...falling away, turning back, wandering in the wilderness
Lasting fruit...finishing well

The Father is glorified in lasting fruit...in quality fruit

- a. I am forced to examine my life as a disciple of Jesus Christ in terms of lasting or fleeting fruit
- b. As pastor, I am heartbroken over all the fleeting fruit I have seen and I rejoice in the lasting fruit I have seen

Within me and within in this congregation, is the fruit lasting or fleeting?
Time will tell

What can I do for myself?
Abide/continue/remain in “My love”, “My Commandments”, and “My joy”

What can I do for you?

1 Cor 1:24 be a helper of your joy for by (your) faith you stand
v13 be a friend...Greater Love