

Introduction:

- John 13-15 is often referred to as the Upper Room discourse. Jesus had lots to say in these five chapters. I am focusing on chapters 15-17.
 - We did an introductory message a few weeks ago.
 - Last week I spoke about the Father, the Vinedresser, and His role in helping us to be fruitful.
- Tonight I want to look at John 15:3. May we remember this is hours before His passion and this is what is on His heart.
 - *"Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you."* (John 15:3, ESV)
 - *"You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you."* (John 15:3, NLT)
- This verse appears as a sidebar to the text. But it is so important to the disciples.

I. You Are Clean!

A. It is what the Word does!

1. It cleanses us: *"that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,"* (Ephesians 5:26, ESV). *"And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."* (1 Corinthians 6:11, ESV).
 - a) The Word sets us apart. It marks us with God!
 - b) The Word cleanses us like water. The Word makes us come alive.
2. It matures us: Verse 27 from the TPT: *"All that he does in us is designed to make us a mature church for his pleasure, until we become a source of praise to him—glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw."* (Ephesians 5:27, TPT)
 - a) Designed to make us mature. (Mature grape vine produces more fruit.)
 - b) This is what the Word does to us.
3. The Word is Spirit and Life: *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* (John 6:63, ESV)
 - a) Spirit - Trinity is involved.
 - b) Life - Zoe - God kind of life. It is what flows through the True Vine and make fruitfulness possible.

B. You Are Clean, because I have been washing you with the Word.

1. Already - this has happened to you at an earlier point.
2. It happened because as I have been speaking to you pruning and fruit bearing has already been occurring.
3. Jesus is sharing with them that they are o.k. They don't have to worry or wonder where they are 'spiritually positioned.' I think many people probably ask that question of Jesus a fair amount of times, "Am I o.k. with you?" To which Jesus answer "Yes! BUT..."

C. But you must ABIDE!

1. Abide - remain, continue, stand firm in – in “Me.” It is in the aorist active imperative which means... the action that the verb is describing is the result of something that happened in the past and continues in the present by way of commanded to take in the present. This means that the response is fitting for what happened before.
2. Abide! Just as you abide in me before, so now, I command you to continue to abide in me and let my word continue to wash you so that you become even more fruitful. Jesus is saying:
 - a) “I want my word to deal with every lie that you choose or have chosen to believe.”
 - b) I am afraid. I am inadequate. I am in lack. I have no hope.
 - c) *“It is in the fight that you build the character to keep the land that the Lord has given you.”* Steve Backland. Ie. Joshua 1. The word will cause you to be successful.
 - d) Think higher than the negatives and the feeling that the enemy is putting in your head.
 - (1) Hopelessness protects the stronghold we allow in our lives.
 - (2) Everyone fights shame: body type, clothes we wear, family issues, car we drive...
3. Abiding continues as we continue in the Word! Jesus is the Word!
 - a) The more lies you are freed from the cleaner you get!
 - b) The more lies you are freed from the more Truth you walk in.
 - c) This affects your prayer life.

II. The Power of Prayer

- A. Jesus seems to be very clear: If you abide in me and ask whatever you desire and it will be done for you.
 1. There is a condition to this verse, “IF YOU ABIDE.” Then the result will be answered prayer. Ie. Do you see why we are always stressing pray the Word?
 2. Abiding allows us to bear fruit and vs. 8 for Father to get all the glory and we to prove we are His disciples.
 3. Prayer is for fruit bearing! Connects with vs 16.
 4. Prayer breaks down when it is not used for the purpose of fruit-bearing.
- B. Prayer is not for our own selfish/carnal desires. Bring your desires into alignment with His.
 1. We want our desires to be subject to His desires.
 2. *“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”* (Psalm 37:4, ESV). It is in the delighting of ourselves in Him that He gives us the desires of our heart...he places His desires in our heart and these are the very things we pray

for.

3. *"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us." (1 John 5:14, ESV)*
 4. *"and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him." (1 John 3:22, ESV)*
 5. *"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." (James 4:3, ESV).*
- C. The words of Jesus abiding in us cause us to be the kind of persons who are not dominated by natural desires, but are devoted to fruit-bearing for God's glory.
- D. Jesus seems to be telling us that the more Word we have in us/a part of us the more prayers we will see answered especially those that bring glory to Father and prove we are Jesus disciples!

Conclusion:

- The Father desires our fruitfulness. He lifts us up, prunes us for fruitfulness.
- He does this with the Word which cleans and mature us (Make us fruit bearing.)
- When we know this we pray according the Vinedressers purpose and we bear fruit making Him famous!