

INTRODUCTION

- * Over the past four weeks, we have been considering Jesus' loving, servant leadership to His followers - expressed by His example of humility in serving them while they bickered regarding their greatness, and expressed through the promises that He gave them in the midst of their dismay.
- * Over the past two weeks, we have considered Jesus' promises to those who believe in Him. First, that He would prepare a dwelling place (monae) in His Father's house. Next, Jesus stated that He would intercede on their behalf with the Father; if they asked anything in His name (according to His will) He would accomplish it for us. He then promised those who love Him and keep His commandments, that He would send the Holy Spirit to dwell within them; and that the Father and Son would set up their monae in the believer! Finally, He promised them His peace.
- * As we transition into chapter 15, Jesus begins to teach His disciples while they are traveling from the upper room to Gethsemane. In this final time of teaching, Jesus seeks to encourage them in face of what they will experience in life.
- * Jesus shares that the key to living a fruitful life will be abiding in Him. Abiding (meno) is the verbal root of monae. We must choose to dwell in Christ, in His Word and in His Love. If we do so, we will bear fruit and the Father will be glorified.

INSTRUCTION ... We WILL bear fruit by ...

I. ABIDING IN HIS W_____ (v. 1-8)

A. The E_____ of Abiding in Christ ... Bearing Fruit

1. THOSE WHO ARE NOT BEARING FRUIT ARE TAKEN AWAY AND BURNED IN A FIRE (v. 2, 6; cf. Matthew 3:7-12; Luke 13:6-9)
2. THOSE WHO ARE BEARING FRUIT ARE PRUNED (v. 2; cf. Matt 13:3-9; 18-23; Phil 1:9-11; Gal 5:22-23; Col 1:10; Psalm 1:3)

B. The S_____ of Bearing Fruit - Abiding in Christ's Word

1. OUR D_____ UPON ABIDING IN CHRIST TO BEAR FRUIT (v. 4,5; Phil. 4:13)
2. OUR C_____ IN ABIDING IN CHRIST'S WORD FOR ANSWERED PRAYER (cf. John 8:31)

II. ABIDING IN HIS L_____ (v. 9-17)

A. The M_____ of Abiding In His Love (v. 10)

B. The E_____ of Abiding In His Love

1. OUR L_____ (v. 12, 17)
2. OUR F_____ (v. 13-15)
3. OUR F_____ (v. 16)

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW FRUITFUL IS YOUR LIFE?
- * ARE YOU ABIDING IN CHRIST'S WORD? WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU ARE?
- * ARE YOU ABIDING IN CHRIST'S LOVE? WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU ARE?
- * IS IT YOUR PRIMARY DESIRE IN LIFE TO GLORIFY THE FATHER?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read Jeremiah 17:5-10. How does this statement of YHWH via Jeremiah apply to Jesus' teaching of bearing fruit?