

## **Faith in the Home, Sermon Notes and Applications for the Home**

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter, John 15:1-8, "Getting to the Root of Our New Life."**

John's Gospel Account of Jesus shares the final teachings of Jesus before He would be arrested and handed over to be crucified. If you knew you were about to leave people you loved, what would you say them? Chapters 13-17 in the Gospel according to John document Jesus' last words to His disciples before He would be betrayed, arrested, and condemned to be crucified. These words of Jesus are not just for the next three days until He was raised. They were for His disciples in that moment, after Jesus' death, after His resurrection, and especially after He ascended to Heaven. These words are meant to the Church today on how to live now that we are redeemed by our resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In John 15, Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Note, Jesus tells His disciples that are "already clean," meaning that their faith has saved them. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is teaching about what we are saved for. Jesus is comparing our new life to Him as branches on a tree that is planted to produce fruit. It fair to interpret that is the tree and each of us in a branch on that tree. In order to stay healthy, we need to be connected to Jesus like fruit often is connected to its nutrients through a vine. If Christ is the foundation of new life that new life can be only nurtured and maintained by staying rooted in Christ.

One thing that can be drawn from this text is that Jesus is more than our ticket to eternal life. Jesus is the source of abundant life now. God did not just send Jesus to save us from Hell, but to renew our lives here and now. We can call on Jesus for all our needs. He abides in us, and we are to abide in Him. This doesn't mean that living a life abiding in Christ will be free from challenges. However, Jesus offers us something else to help us in this world. Jesus said, "Ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." Jesus gave us the gift of prayer to lift each other up, but also as way to maintain a relationship with the Father. Salvation through Christ is not just about being saved from Hell, but its about having a relationship with God. The creator of the universe wants you to call Him like a child calls out to His mom or dad. "What love the Father has granted, that we may be called children of God, and so we are."