

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. (v4)

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son & our Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments & abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, & that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go & bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What is the connection between *v13 & 10:11-17; 13:37-38; 1 John 3:16*? The phrase is unique to St. John’s writings. *See also Exodus 12; Leviticus 16:21-22; John 1:29; Romans 5:6-11*
2. The philosopher Aristotle wrote, “Friendship is a form of love, best exhibited in the giving rather than in the receiving” (*Nicomachean Ethics* VIII:8, ca. 330 BCE). How does that fit with Jesus’ idea that his love bears fruit in the disciples’ lives?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. How does it feel to be Jesus’ friend? What does that say about the honesty & accountability in your relationship with him? Review the philosopher Aristotle’s types of friendship on *Wikipedia: tinyurl.com/4yhumurt* Be honest, which kind of friend do you treat Jesus as?
4. Good works are the logical outcome of our abiding on the vine (*see [Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration IV 14](#), available bookofconcord.org*) How is the goodness of your works determined? Is *goodness* a category of actions? Is it a result of something else, say *abiding*? Is it situational- could a work be *good* one time & not another? How is *good* a rational/reasonable measurement or a Godly decision?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Too often we think obedience (*vv10, 14*) is for during the week & good works (*v16*) are for church. Perhaps that’s backwards. What changes in your perspective toward everyday life when the things at church teach us obedience so that we can bear fruit during the week for our neighbors?
6. The Bible is clear that we don’t choose, elect, decide, find, pick, etc. Jesus, but that he chooses us (*v16*). How does that change your perspective when dealing with pre-Christians, that you are showing & telling about Jesus’ choice of them? *See John 6:70, 13:18, (15:27), Romans 8:38, Ephesians 1:4ff, Colossians 3:12, 1 Peter 2:4, [Small Catechism: Creed- Art. 3, Baptism 3; available \[bookofconcord.org\]\(http://bookofconcord.org\)](#)*

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

05.05.24

Series: Abide

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

God makes his abode with us

Fruitful Life

Vines have branches to bear the fruit

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: You did not choose me but I chose you.

And I appointed you to go & bear fruit, fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. (v16)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Those who love me will keep my word, & my Father will love them,
& we will come to them & make our home with them. (John 14:23)

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