

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 48

Lesson 48 – Instructions for The Present

Background:

In the previous lesson learned that Jesus promised to send His Holy Spirit to lead and guide the disciples. Some commentators think that Jesus and His disciples have now left the upper room and are on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

In this lesson we will see Jesus talking about a vine and branches. He also makes it clear to the disciples that the world will hate them. Finally, He provides some more teaching about the coming Holy Spirit.

Read: [John 15:1-16:4](#)

Read the Following Quote

"The branch has no life of its own; its whole existence is derived from the vine. To abide in Him means to surrender our self-reliance and let His life work quietly and deeply through us." [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#)

Questions:

How does the metaphor of a branch and a vine help us understand our relationship with Jesus? Where do our accomplishments come from?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [John 15:1-17](#)

The Vine and the Branches

1. Jesus uses a metaphor to describe His relationship with His Father and with His disciples. What is the relationship between Jesus and His Father? What is the relationship between Jesus and His disciples? (verses 1-4) How can we "bear fruit" for Jesus? What happens to unfruitful branches? What do you think it means to "remain" in Jesus?
-
-

2. In verse 5 Jesus talks about bearing "much fruit." What do you think Jesus means by fruit? What kind of fruit can we produce for Jesus? Is it possible to bear fruit for Jesus without remaining in Him? What happens to branches that don't bear fruit?

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 48

What is the relationship between branches that bear fruit and the Father? In your circle of family and friends, who do you know that you think is bearing fruit for the Father? What does that fruit look like?

3. Thinking about love, what is the relationship between the Father, the Son, the disciples, and ourselves? (verses 9-11)

4. Jesus talks again about love in verses 12-14. Why do you think He refers constantly to love? Why does Jesus make it a command to love? Why doesn't Jesus remind the disciples about all the Old Testament commandments?

5. What is the greatest example of love? Describe the kind of love that Jesus has shown us? How and to whom can we show this kind of love? What kind of relationship do we have with Jesus if we obey Him? When we think about the love that Jesus describes, how does it compare with the world's idea of love? (verses 9-14)

6. What is the difference between friends and servants? Did we choose Jesus or did He choose us? What is His purpose for us? (verses 14-17)

The World and the Disciples [John 15:18-25](#)

7. Why does the world hate the disciples? How can we be loved by the world? Who do we belong to? Why is that better? Why does Jesus compare servants and masters? How does this help us understand our role in the world? (verses 18-20)

8. What does this next section (verses 21-25) teach us about:

- The way followers of Jesus are treated
- Jesus teaching and sin
- The relationship between God and the sinner who hates Jesus

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 48

- Jesus's works and the sinner
 - How the sinner's thinking relates to the Law
-
-

The Work of the Holy Spirit [John 15:26-16:4](#)

9. Who is the "Advocate" and what will be his role? Do Christ's disciples have a similar role? In what way do you think that Christians can be influenced and strengthened to carry out this role? (verses 26-27)

10. What purpose does Jesus have in telling the disciples all these things? What do you think it means to "fall away"? (verse 1)

11. Jesus describes what His disciples are likely to face in the future. What are those things? Do we face similar things today? Where and from whom? What can Christians do who are facing persecution? (verses 2-4)

Suggested Prayer:

"Heavenly Father,

I believe that you are the gardener in my life, and Jesus is the true vine. Help me to remain deeply connected to Jesus so that apart from Him I can live a productive spiritual life.

Please prune my life when and where needed so that I may bear lasting fruit for You. , Fill my heart with joy and provide me with the strength to love others just as you love me.

Help me to walk boldly in truth, even when the world is against me, as it is against You.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 48

Table of Contents:

Lesson 1	Introduction to Series: Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-8
Lesson 2	The Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist: Luke 1:5-25; 57-80
Lesson 3	The Announcements to Joseph and Mary: Luke 1:26-38
Lesson 4	The Birth of Jesus: Luke 1:1-20
Lesson 5	The Ambassador; Jesus' Baptism: Mark 1:1, Luke 3:1-2; Mt 3:7-10
Lesson 6	The First Disciples; The First Miracle: John 1:35- 2:11
Lesson 7	Jesus accepted in Judea: Temple and Nicodemus: John 2:13-3:21
Lesson 8	Jesus accepted in Samaria: John 4:5-42
Lesson 9	Christ's Authority: To Preach; Over Disease; Over Nature: Lk 4:16-30; Jn 4:46-54; Lk 5:1-11
Lesson 10	Authority: Over Demons and Sickness; and to Forgive Lk 4:31-37; Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 2:1-12
Lesson 11	Christ's Authority Over Men, Tradition, and Sabbath: Mk 2:13-17; Matt 9:14-17; Lk 6:1-5
Lesson 12	The Commissioning and Cost of Discipleship Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; Luke 14:25-35
Lesson 13	The Sermon on the Mount Part One: Matthew 5:1-16
Lesson 14	The Sermon on the Mount Part Two: Matthew 5:17-7:6
Lesson 15	The Sermon on the Mount Part Three: Matthew 7:7-7:29
Lesson 16	Resistance by Some: Matthew 11:20-12:14
Lesson 17	Reception by a Sinner: Luke 7:36-50
Lesson 18	Rejection by Pharisees and Family: Mark 3:20-35
Lesson 19	Post Rejection Instructions: Matthew 13:1-53
Lesson 20	Feeding of the 5,000 & The Storm: Mark 6:30-52
Lesson 21	Instructions About the Bread of Life: John 6:22-71
Lesson 22	Peter's Confession; The Transfiguration; Matt 16:13-21; 17:1-8
Lesson 23	On the Way to Jerusalem (Luke 9:43-62)
Lesson 24	Jesus' Brothers and the Conflict at the Feast of Tabernacles
Lesson 25	Conflict over the Law and Conflict over Light
Lesson 26	Conflict over Jesus' Person
Lesson 27	Conflict Over the Healing of the Blind Man
Lesson 28	The Witness of the 72 & The Question of Eternal Life (Luke 10:1-37)
Lesson 29	Jesus' Friends; Prayer, Healing a Mute Man, Pharisaic Rituals (Luke 10:38-11:36)
Lesson 30	Hypocrisy, Covetousness, Watchfulness, Faithfulness; Jesus' Coming
Lesson 31	Signs of the Times, Repentance, Crippled Woman, Mustard Seed (Luke 12:54 - 13:21)
Lesson 32	Further Conflict (John 10:40-42; Luke 13:22-35 - 14:1-24)
Lesson 33	Three Parables (Luke 15)
Lesson 34	Instructions about Money and its Consequences (Luke 16)
Lesson 35	Instructions About Forgiveness, Service & Thankfulness (Luke 17)
Lesson 36	The Story of Lazarus; (John 11)
Lesson 37	Instructions about Prayer and Eternal Life (Luke 18:1-34)
Lesson 38	Divorce, Blind Man, Dinner with a Sinner Matthew 19:1-15; Luke 18:35-43; Luke 19:1-10
Lesson 39	Approaching & Entering Jerusalem; The Greeks; Belief and Unbelief (John 12:1-50)
Lesson 40	Jesus in Jerusalem - Challenged (Mark 11:11-33; Matthew 22:41-46; Lk 20:45-47; Mark 12:41-44)
Lesson 41	Jesus in Jerusalem – Three Parables (Matthew 21:28-22:14)
Lesson 42	Confrontations with the Religious Leaders (Mark 12:13-34; Matthew 23:1-5; 13, 37-39)
Lesson 43	Predictions by Christ (Matthew 24:1-25:46; Mark 13:1-37; Luke 21:5-36)
Lesson 44	Predictions by Christ Continued (Matthew 24:32-51; 25:1-46)
Lesson 45	Preparations for His Death (Matthew 26:1-13; Luke 22:3-16; Mark 14:22-26)
Lesson 46	In the Upper Room (John 13:1-38; 14:1-12)
Lesson 47	The Promise of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-31)
Lesson 48	Instructions for the Present