

ABIDE IN JESUS: KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

In the previous lesson we learned that we need to enter the narrow gate. We need to seek to find the narrow gate. We learned that Jesus is the one and only door. If Jesus is the only door, we need to go to Him for guidance of how to get to heaven.

HOW TO LOVE JESUS

If you love me, keep my commandments: John 14:15

Jesus tells us how to love Him. Jesus tells us what we will do if we love Him. Can we deny the importance of obeying His commands?

He who has my commandments, and keeps them, loves me: John 14:21

Jesus says that the one who has (knows) His commandments, and keeps them is the one that loves Jesus. What happens to those who love Jesus? They will be loved by the father. Jesus will also love them, and Jesus will show Himself to them. What does it mean that Jesus will show Himself to them? This is just an expression of communion, togetherness, and love.

ABIDE IN ME

Jesus gives us a parable to tell us more about our relationship with Him.

I am the vine, and ye are the branches: John 15:1-6, 10-11

- (1) Who is the vine? Who is the vinedresser (gardener)?
- (2) What are the two types of branches? What does God do to each branch?
- (3) What can the branch not do apart from the vine?

Jesus is a vine, and God is the vinedresser. There are two types of branches: branches that bear fruit, and branches that do not bear fruit. Branches that don't bear fruit are removed and burned. Branches that bear fruit are pruned, so they can bear more fruit. What is the only way we can bear fruit? By abiding in the vine. We can't bear fruit if we are not a part of the vine. The only way we can bear fruit is if we abide in Jesus. How do we abide in Jesus?

Abide in my love: John 15:10-11

If we keep His commandments, we abide in Him. To abide in Jesus we must obey His commandments. Vine branches are supposed to bear fruit. The only way they can please the gardener, is if they bear fruit. The only way they can bear fruit is if they abide in vine. We must abide in Jesus to bear fruit. The only way we can abide in Jesus is if we keep His commandments.

Now we know that loving Jesus is obeying His commands. Now let's see how we know His commands.

HOW WE KNOW JESUS COMMANDMENTS?

In John 14:21, Jesus says that someone who knows and keeps Jesus' commandments, He will show Himself to that person. Judas (not the one that betrayed Jesus) asks a very important question.

How has it happened that you showed yourself to us, and not the rest of the world? John 14:22

The disciples know Jesus' teaching, because they were with Him, but what about the rest of the world? Did Jesus teach every person in the world? Is Jesus walking around the earth teaching us today? These things are obviously not true, so how do we know His commandments? Judas is concerned about the rest of the world, because he doesn't know how they will receive Jesus' commandments. How does the rest of the world know Jesus' commands? Jesus tells us.

The Helper: John 14:25-27

Who is God sending? What will He do?

Jesus has told them His commands while being with them, but soon the Father will send the Helper, the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus. What will the Helper do? Help them remember all that Jesus has said. Then Jesus tells His apostles not to be fearful.

The Helper: John 15:26-27

What will happen when the Helper comes? What will the disciples begin to do?

This passage tells us that the Holy Spirit will testify, and the disciples will testify as well. They will testify the teachings of Jesus.

John 16:5-11

Where is Jesus going? Why is it advantageous that he leaves? Who will come after He leaves? What will the Helper do when He comes?

Jesus is telling His disciples, that He will be dying soon. They will be sad after He is gone, but it is better that He leaves. When He leaves, the Holy Spirit will come. When the Holy Spirit comes, He will convict the world of sin and righteousness. This is similar to what Jesus did.

John 15:22-24

What did Jesus do among the people? Why are they guilty?

Jesus taught and worked miracles on this earth. People wouldn't be guilty of denying Jesus, if He hadn't have done these things, but since He taught and did miracles, they are guilty of unbelief. The Holy Spirit will do the same thing. The Holy Spirit will come down and testify to the world. The Apostles will receive the Holy Spirit and testify to the world. They will tell the world what Jesus wants us to do. When we are given Jesus' commands, then we will be judged righteous or sinful.

CONCLUSION

We know that Jesus is the only way to heaven. We know that we need to keep His commandments to abide in Him. We know that His commandments are given to us by the Holy Spirit, and are recorded in the Bible.

If you want to abide in Jesus, you must obey His commands that have been recorded in the Bible, and you must obey the teachings of the Apostles, which are inspired by the Holy Spirit. This is how we bear fruit, and please God.