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오늘의 말씀

“When His Heart Becomes Our Life”

[John 15:4~5]

Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. A branch cannot give fruit by itself. It must stay on the vine. It is the same for you. You cannot give fruit unless you stay joined to me.⁵ “I am the vine. You are the branches. If you stay joined to me and I stay joined to you, you will give a lot of fruit.

Without me, you can do nothing.”

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Introduction ~ The Final Question of The Heart of Jesus Series: How Can the Heart of Jesus Become My Life?

Dear brothers and sisters, for the past eight weeks, we have sat on the mountain listening to Jesus. We have looked at the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and last week, those who remain blessed even when following Jesus means walking a different path from the world. But as we close this series, we must ask one final question: “How can the heart of Je-sus actually become my heart and my life?” If the conclusion of these eight weeks is simply, “Now be more humble. Mourn more. Be more meek. Show more mercy. Become purer. Work harder at making peace,” then the Beatitudes become eight new assignments for us. But last week we said, The Beatitudes are not eight assignments; they reveal the heart of Jesus. Then how does that heart begin to grow in us? Jesus’ answer is remarkably simple: “Abide in Me” (John 15:4). Jesus did not first say, “Bear fruit.” He first said, “Abide in Me.” Remember this order today: μένω (Abiding) → καρπός (Fruit). Reverse the order, and faith be-comes a burden; keep the order, and it becomes the gospel.

Let Us Enter the Exposition of the Text

Jesus First Says, “Abide in Me [μένω].”

[John 15:4] “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

In John 15, Jesus repeatedly uses the word [μένω (menō)]. It means “to remain, stay, abide, or continue without leaving.” “Abide in Me [μείνατε ἐν ἐμοί].” Here [μείνατε (meinate)] is the imperative form of [μένω (menō)].

Jesus is not inviting us merely to visit Him. This is not a relationship where we come only in trouble or ask for help only when needed. It is an invitation: "Remain in Me. Make Me the dwelling place of your life."

But the order matters. We often think of Christian life this way: Bear good fruit → then become a good Christian. Jesus reverses it: Abide in Me → then fruit will come. Jesus does not begin with fruit but relationship. Life before performance, connection before results. Before Christianity is a life of doing more, it is a life lived in Jesus.

To make this clear, Jesus gives us a remarkable picture: "I am the vine, you are the branches." It clearly shows that Jesus is the source of our life. His picture is beautifully simple.

[John 15:5] "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

There is a vine and there are branches. A branch cannot produce life by itself. Neither does it draw water directly from the ground. It lives by receiving life through the root and vine. And a branch does not wake up every morning saying, "Today I am going to produce grapes!" Imagine a branch straining with all its strength to make fruit. That is not the picture Jesus gives us. The most important thing for the branch is to re-main in the vine. Then life rises from the root, flows through the vine into the branch, and in time, fruit appears.

This is the secret of gospel-centered Christian living. Sometimes we try too hard to become like Jesus. "I need to be more meek..." "I need to love more..." "I need to for-give more..." "I need stronger faith..." Then we become discouraged when we do not see the fruit we expect. But Jesus does not tell us to stare at our fruit and push our-selves harder. He says, "Look to Me.

Remain in Me. Receive My life.”

Therefore, fruit is not a report card we present to Jesus. Before fruit is the result of effort, it is evidence that life is flowing. A branch does not become part of the vine because grapes appear on it. Grapes appear because the branch is connected to the vine. In the same way, we do not belong to Jesus because we live like Him; because we belong to Jesus, His life begins to appear in us.

The Heart of Jesus Is Not an “Imitation,” but “Fruit.”

Look back over these past eight weeks. We have seen the heart of Jesus: His poverty of spirit, His mourning, His meekness, His hunger for the Father’s righteousness, His mercy, His undivided purity, His peacemaking heart, and His willingness to suffer because of His faithfulness to the Father.

But Jesus does not say, “Now try hard to imitate all this.” He invites us into His own life: “Abide in Me.” That is why Paul’s expression in Galatians 5 is so important.

[Galatians 5:22–23] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Notice carefully. Paul does not call them “the achievements of the Spirit” or “the assignments of the Spirit.” He calls them fruit. The Greek word is [καρπός (karpos)], the same word for “fruit” Jesus repeatedly uses in John 15.

Of course, the Beatitudes and the fruit of the Spirit are not identical lists. But they move in a remarkably similar direction. The Beatitudes show us the heart of Jesus, while the fruit of the Spirit shows how Christ’s life appears in us. As we abide in Jesus, change slowly begins. We used to become angry quickly, but we grow more gentle. We used to see another person’s faults first, but now we begin to see their pain. We once had to

prove we were right, but now we can reach out first. We once envied what the world had, but Jesus becomes increasingly precious. Not because we have become perfect, but because His life is flowing in us.

Therefore, Christian character is not simply a self-improvement project. It is Christ's life bearing fruit in us. The heart of Jesus is not something we imitate from the outside, but life blossoming from within.

“He Who Abides in Me, and I in Him”, ~ We Are Not Alone

When we look more closely at John 15:5, we find something remarkable. Jesus does not simply say, “If you abide in Me.” He says, “He who abides in Me, and I in him.” It is a mutual abiding.

This changes how we see our life of faith. We often tell ourselves, “I need to hold on to Jesus more tightly.” Yes, we are called to abide in Him. But the gospel does not end there. Jesus also abides in us. When I am shaken, when I am weak, even when I am disappointed in myself, the life of Christ remains in me. Paul describes this beautifully.

[Colossians 1:26–27] the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. (27) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Therefore, our hope does not rest only on “how tightly I am holding on to Jesus.” Our hope rests in this truth: “Christ is in me.” This is the gospel. And His life continues working within us.

Then Jesus says, “Abide in My love.” In the end, it is about love. A little later in John 15, Jesus explains more deeply what it means to “abide.”

[John 15:9] “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you;

abide in My love.

What an amazing word! Jesus does not merely say, "Abide in My teaching," or "Do not forget My commands." He says, "Abide in My love." And that love does not begin with us. Jesus first says, "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you." Love comes first. Grace comes first. Jesus holds us first. And only then does He say, "Abide in that love." I believe this is one of the most beautiful pictures of Christian faith.

Christianity is not a lifelong effort to prove ourselves worthy of God's approval. It is re-ceiving God's love, remaining in that love, and falling more deeply in love with Him. When we fall in love, we begin to resemble the one we love. The longer we look at Jesus, the more we love His heart. The more we love His heart, the more we desire to live with that same heart, and the Spirit produces that heart as fruit within us. Christian faith is ultimately a life of falling in love with Jesus and becoming like Him.

Today's Passage Ends: "Without Me You Can Do Nothing."

[John 15:5] "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

At first, this may sound somewhat negative: "You cannot do anything without Me." But when we hear it within the picture of the vine and branches, it sounds completely different.

A branch's inability to live apart from the vine is not a defect. That is how the branch was created. It was made to live by receiving life from the vine. In the same way, human beings were not created to become complete apart from God. We were made to live in Him. So Jesus is not condemning our weakness; He is showing us where our life comes from.

The world constantly tells us, "Find strength within yourself." "Prove yourself." "Become stronger." "Achieve more." But Jesus

says, "Abide in Me." The world tells us to be-come stronger, but the gospel tells us to stay closer. That difference changes every-thing. The Christian's strength is not found in how strong we are, but in whom we are connected to.

Conclusion ~ Now Grace Begins to Blossom in Our Lives

Dear brothers and sisters, for nine weeks we have looked together at The Heart of Jesus. We began with the poor in spirit, with empty hands. But because our hands were empty, we could receive grace. That grace taught us to mourn, made us meek, and awakened our hunger for God. That grace became mercy, purity of heart, and peace flowing toward others. And last week, we saw the happiness of discovering that Jesus is more precious than anything in this world. Today, Jesus reveals the secret behind all these changes: "Abide in Me."

Dear brothers and sisters, a branch does not struggle to manufacture fruit. When it remains in the vine, life flows into it and eventually becomes fruit. So our question should no longer be, "How can I become a better Christian?" but "How can I abide more deeply in Je-sus today?" Look at the heart of Jesus. Remain in His Word. Receive His love. Talk with Him. Love Him. Surrender to the Spirit's work within you. Then one day, fruit will appear in our lives, not fruit we forced ourselves to produce, but fruit blossomed by grace.

In the days ahead, I want us to explore that life more deeply together. When the life of Jesus flows within us, peace can blossom even in an anxious world. Rest can blossom in a weary soul. Freedom can blossom in a heart trapped by comparison. Forgiveness can blossom in wounded relationships. Simplicity can blossom again in a complicated life. And even as our outward person grows older, new hope can blossom within. This is not a

life we manufacture. It is a life the life of Jesus brings to bloom within us. So after The Heart of Jesus, I would like us to begin a new series together: "A Life Blossoming by Grace."

Today's Prayer Points

- A. Lord, instead of pushing myself to become a better Christian, help me abide more deeply in Jesus each day.
- B. Lord, keep me from trying to imitate the heart of Jesus in my own strength, and let the life of Christ bear fruit in me through the Holy Spirit.
- C. Lord, help me remain in the love of Jesus, and let Your grace blossom beautifully in every part of my life.