

With Jesus Pt 4

Our Part

John 15:4-8

“What do you want me to do for you?”

~Jesus, Mark 10:36

Vs4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you.

John 15:4

Choosing to remain in is something that is uniquely ours to do.

*This is talking specifically about bearing spiritual fruit, not our standing as children of God.

Vs 4 No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me

John 15:4

This is a law that is etched in nature that points to a spiritual law that is etched in the Kingdom of God.

A branch, physical or spiritual, will not bear fruit by itself.

**Attachment to Jesus means learning to
live our lives *with* Him, in loving
allegiance and obedience to Him alone.**

Vs 5 I am the vine; you are the branches.

Jesus is the source of life for the branches - His disciples -and the source of any fruit they would ever bear through that life.

Vs5 If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Remaining in Jesus is a definite possibility for anyone who would choose to do so and it is clearly God's deep desire but it is not an inevitability.

**When we live apart from Jesus we also
live without the fruit of His Spirit in
our lives.**

**One of the most important questions you
will ever answer will be...**

**Do you *want* to trust and obey (follow) Jesus'
teaching?**

6 If you do not remain in me...

First, notice Jesus doesn't propose the possibility of Him not remaining in us.

Again, while remaining in Jesus is a definite possibility and is God's deepest desire for us, it is not a foregone conclusion or an inevitability.

When we speak about not remaining in Jesus we are not speaking of our ultimate salvation or our standing as adopted children of God. We are speaking of living in obedient trust in and dependence on Jesus as our way of life here on this earth

If you do not remain in me you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. John 15:6

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:7

Jesus will certainly remain with us through it all but only you can make that choice to know and put into practice Jesus teaching and commands - and you will have to do it daily.

...ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:7

This not a reward for doing well or getting it right. That is a description of what happens in our relationship with God when our character has been significantly shaped into Christ's character.

8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

God does not bless us reluctantly. God burns with the desire to bless us and to do so abundantly.

Read the Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. As you read the stories of Jesus and take in His teachings, seriously think about what living like Jesus lived and teaches us to live would be like. Notice how Jesus interacts with others. Notice how Jesus responds to adversity, to success, to hurting people and to powerful people. Notice his range of emotions and how He lives through each of them.

Imagine what kind of impact and change that would bring to your life and your relationships if you became more of the kind of person Jesus was.

The reality is that many if not most of us are too comfortable, too busy, too distracted or too good at deadening our pain to be motivated to make the kind of changes we need to make in order to really abide in Jesus.

That's reality.

But - it doesn't have to stay that way.

