

The Secret to Abiding in Jesus

Scripture Reading: *John 5:19-24*

Introduction:

- A. What comes to mind when you hear the word “**desperate**”?
 - 1. We often initially think of that word in negative connotations.
 - 2. But there is a **good** kind of **desperate**—when you know you need help and you confidently know that there is **someone** who has both the power and the loving desire to help you.
- B. In *John 15*, Jesus prescribes this good kind of desperation for his disciples.

I. Spiritual _____ Begins Only in Jesus

- A. Jesus uses the imagery of a vine to describe spiritual life.
- B. The people of Israel were frequently described as a vine or vineyard in the Old Testament (*Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 2:21; Psalm 80*).
- C. When Jesus says, “*I am the true vine,*” he is making a profound claim.
 - 1. Where the people of Israel failed to rightly obey and represent God, he perfectly obeys and reveals the character and purpose of God.
 - 2. Now, the only way to be joined to the spiritual life made available by the one true God—the only way to know God and relate to him—is through Jesus.

II. Spiritual _____ Comes Only in Jesus

- A. Bearing fruit is an essential part of genuine spiritual life (*John 15:2,4,5,8*).
- B. What is the spiritual fruit that Jesus is talking about? (*John 15:7,8,16*).
- C. **How** do we bear fruit? Jesus says, “*abide in me*” (*John 15:4,5,6,7,9,10*).
 - 1. When we think about what it means to abide in Jesus, our temptation very well may be to ask for a checklist.
 - 2. But abiding isn’t complicated! Abiding is all about _____.
 - 3. The secret to abiding? Being _____ for Jesus.
- D. **Have you reached that point in your life? If not, why not?**