

Day 20 – January 28, 2023 - Abide

“It is a fact that the Lord Jesus has already died for you. It is also a fact that you have already died with the Lord Jesus. If you do not believe in your death with Christ, you will not be able to receive the effectiveness of death with Him - freedom from sin.” - Watchman Nee

SCRIPTURE: John 15

2 Peter 1:3-11

Psalm 119:1-8

I remember some years ago there was a movement called WWJD, which stood for “What Would Jesus Do?” I would see Christians wearing wristband with those letters written on it. The notion was that whenever you were faced with a decision or choice that you were not sure about you would look at your wrist and see those letters WWJD and you would ask yourself, “What Would Jesus Do?”

- If you saw someone being bullied and you were tempted to join in – just look at your wrist and you would know not to.
- If a peer was pressuring you to join the party and get drunk like all your friends were – just look at your wrist and you would hear Jesus saying, “nope, not a good idea.”
- If you were feeling bad about your disdain for cats? Just look at your wrist and Jesus would remind you that your feelings are completely normal and ok.

Having the wisdom of Jesus strapped to your wrist seemed like a good way to have Jesus on your mind at all times. The sentiment was good, but the problem was that most people may not have any idea what Jesus would do because they had not taken the time to study the Bible to see what Jesus did.

Jesus simply became the answer to questions and circumstances we weren't sure about instead of a person we could turn to because we were connected to Him through a personal relationship. To abide in Christ is not only living our lives asking Jesus what we should do, but it is to know Him so well that we naturally live our lives in response to who He is.

In John 15 Jesus lays out for us what he expects for those of us who have chosen to follow Him. He wants us to do what He did but that means we need to be continually abiding in Him. That means we have to stay connected and read the Bible and pray and listen to His voice daily in our lives. Abiding in Jesus is more than having a reminder on your wrist. It's about having His power, love and truth written on your heart.

REFLECTION:

We you read and study the scripture reading ask the Father the following questions and that note of His response.

- What will you have me to do?
- How do I apply these scriptures to my life?

- What is the message you have for me?
- What promise do you have for me?
- How do I understand these scriptures are trying to teach me?
- What sin do I have to confess?

Prayer:

Father, in the Name of Jesus I pray that I avail myself to follow You as You have laid out in John 15. I pray that You abide in me as I continue to seek Your will and guidance. For You are the “True Vine” and I pray that I bear fruit that is pleasing unto You. Father, I pray that as I keep Your commandments, Your love will abide within me and I am able to love one another as You have commanded. In Jesus Mighty Name I pray. Amen.