

Learning from Jesus' Last Message #11
"The Commission Jesus Entrusted to Us"
April 3, 2022, Message Notes

John 15:16-27(NLT)

¹⁶ You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. ²⁰ Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. ²¹ They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. ²² They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Anyone who hates me also hates my Father. ²⁴ If I hadn't done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father. ²⁵ This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures: 'They hated me without cause.'

²⁶ "But I will send you the Advocate (Or *Comforter*, or *Encourager*, or *Counselor*. Greek reads *Paraclete*). —the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. ²⁷ And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.

The Purpose of Jesus' Commissioning

- **ὥστε (*hina*):** subordinating conjunction expressing purpose, used three times
The purpose for which Jesus commissioned his followers:

1) (16) to go and produce lasting fruit

- a) Jesus has just spoken about himself as the vine and the disciples as the branches, and it is in that context that he commissions them to produce fruit.

John 15:1-8

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

⁵ "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

- b) What is the fruit? To become like Jesus in character

Romans 5:3-5

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

2 Peter 1:5-7

⁵ In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient

endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

- 2) (16) so that the **Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name**
 - a) (7) But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!
 - b) Luke 22:42 “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”
- 3) (17) These things I command you, so that you will love one another. (ESV)
 - a) Love is the purpose, the fruit, and the measuring stick God sets for us
 - b) Cf. Romans 5:5, 1 Peter 1:7 above

The Power for Jesus’ Commissioning—the Holy Spirit

- 1) Empowers and helps us to remain in Jesus
 - a) In daily life
 - b) During persecution
- 2) Testifies about the Truth
 - a) In the face of our internal confusion
 - b) In response to external attacks
- 3) Fills our hearts with God’s love

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

God’s Purpose for Us:

Produce lasting fruit through prayer by loving each other, empowered by the Holy Spirit

Reflection:

- 1) How is your current connection (remain/abide) with God?
- 2) To what extent do your prayers overflow from your relationship with God?
- 3) How would you rate yourself based on God’s standard of loving one another? Are you bearing fruit?