

Abide in Me

It was their last meal together.

The Passover was at hand. A time when every Jew would remember God's deliverance. God's mercy. God's call. To his people. To each of them.

The lamb had been slain. The food and wine prepared.

Jesus sighed.

He contemplated His impending death. The humiliation. The disciples falling away. The betrayal of Judas. The promise fulfilled.

He sighed again.

He was leaving them. To be with the Father.

And He knew His departure would shake their world. For they were close. And He was their friend, as well as their teacher.

He wanted to be with them.

Always.

And so his Last Words, as recorded by John, take in the theme of being with Him.

Abiding with Him. Jesus in us and we in Him. In unity, faith and love.

At home together.

How? How can we abide with Him?

Jesus laid down His plan. There are several elements:

First, belief.¹ That he is the way, the truth and the life. That he came to

¹ Jh 14:1

show us his father. For He and the Father are one.²

Second prayer. "Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do."³

Third, through the Holy Spirit. For he is sending the spirit, to convict the world, to comfort us, to lead us into his words. That we might abide in Him, and He in us.⁴

Next, through His words.⁵ For if we love Jesus, we will keep His words and allow them to transform us into new creations.

And, finally, through love.⁶ For if we love Him we will keep His commandments. And He commands us to love one another.⁷ Even being willing to lay down our lives for each other. As He did for us.

Belief. Prayer. Bible study. The Holy Spirit. Love.

[OPTIONAL ENDING: They are the essence of our Faith. As is: His Sacrifice that we Remember now.]

They are the essence of Christianity. An essence as sweet as any perfume. For it is the essence of God's plan of love to transform and retake the world.

What is the result of following this plan? Peace. Unity. Love. Having our prayers answered. Being close to him.

Feeling him beside us. Bearing fruit. Abundant, rich, nourishing fruit.

Where do you abide? When I examine myself, too often I find that I make *my*

² John 14:6-12.

³ John 14:13.

⁴ John 14:16-18; John 16:7-22.

⁵ John 14:23-24.

⁶ John 14:23-24. John 15:12-13.

⁷ John 15:12.

home in the world of entertainment, work, and knowledge. I spend *my* time learning about current events. I spend *my* time trying to earn a living. I spend *my* time abiding in the things of this world.

And its not *my* time. It's His. For *my* life, *my* heart, and *my* soul were given and committed to God.

For *my* life, *my* heart, and *my* soul were bought with a price. *His* body and blood. *His* sacrifice. *His* life. Represented in the Lord's Supper.

Communion helps bring us back. Back to the basics. The basics of Christianity.

Belief. Prayer. Bible study. The Holy Spirit. Love.

To remember: His sacrifice. His blood. His body. His words.

Our call. To abide in Him.

How are you doing? Examine yourself and . . .

Remember . . . [Him. - *end here.*]

(Note: Below poem was CUT for time, but I still enjoyed reading it to myself).

Remember the sacrifice
remember the pain,
remember for my sins,
the lamb was slain

Remember his words,
that taught us to grow,
that changed our lives
his truth to know

Remember his cries,
from Calvary,
as his blood dripped down,
to set us free

Remember the women

as they cried,
the world in darkness
as he died

Remember that i
am His lamb
lost, insecure,
but for the Plan.

Remember that i' m
called to abide
in his words --
his pure, spotless bride

Remember the spirit
that teaches and guides
our hearts to yearn,
to be by His side

Remember Peter
called back again
to feed the sheep,
to overcome his sin.

and as the spirit,
calls us aside,
i' ll remember him,
in whose love i abide.

– Dennis L. Dunn, 2000.