

UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF A TEXT

40 Days In The Word – Part 6

John 15:1-17 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no FRUIT, while every branch that does bear FRUIT he prunes so that it will be even more FRUITFUL. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear FRUIT by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear FRUIT unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much FRUIT; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much FRUIT, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has LOVED me, so have I LOVED you. Now remain in my LOVE. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my LOVE, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his LOVE. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: LOVE each other as I have LOVED you. Greater LOVE has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear FRUIT- FRUIT that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: LOVE each other.”

John 15:6 “If anyone doesn't remain in me, he's like a branch that's thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”

SOME BASIC RULES OF INTERPRETATION

1. Consider _____.

John 13:1-15 “It was just before the Passover feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, ‘Lord, are you going to wash my feet?’ Jesus replied, ‘You don’t realize now what I’m doing, but later you will understand.’ ‘No, Lord,’ Peter said, ‘You shall never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered ‘Unless I wash your feet, Peter, you have no part of me.’ ‘Then Lord,’ Simon Peter said, ‘not just my feet but my hands and my head as well.’ Jesus answered ‘A person who’s had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. You are clean, though not every one of you.’ For Jesus knew who was going to betray him, and that’s why he said, not everyone was clean. When he finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. ‘Do you understand what I’ve done for you?’ Jesus asked them. ‘You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that’s what I am. I am the Lord. I am your teacher. But now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, so also you should wash one another’s feet. I have set the example that you should do as I have done for you.”

John 15:11 “I’ve told you these things so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete!”

2. Define _____.

3. Interpret _____.

John 15:4 (NIV) “Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me”

• **Bearing fruit** _____.

John 15:8 “This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

• **Bearing fruit** _____.

John 15:11 “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

• **Bearing fruit** _____.

4. Look for _____.

John 15:7 “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you!”

• **Remaining in Christ produces** _____.

John 14:13 “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

• **Answered prayer brings** _____.

John 16:24 “Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete!”

• **Answered prayer gives** _____!

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name!”

I bear fruit by _____.

Matthew 7:24 “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock.”