

Marks of a Follower

Word

Scripture Reference

John 15:1-11

Discussion Questions

1. What usually distracts you from focusing on something you are doing?
2. Read John 15:1-11. The disciples were tensed, troubled, and terrified because Jesus, their leader, was about to leave them very soon. In an intimate fellowship with His disciples before Jesus was betrayed, Jesus proceeds to teach them truths about Himself so that they will know where to keep their focus on despite the coming uncertainties and anxieties ahead. What makes you tensed, troubled, and terrified? In what areas of your life do you need God's help the most?
3. Look at John 15 again and find the three marks that are important and necessary for a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. **A disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ acknowledges that Christ is the source of fruitfulness (v. 1-3).** In this private moment with His disciples, Jesus introduced himself as the True Vine. Connection to the vine is necessary for fruitfulness. Discuss how are you supposed to remain in Jesus? What are the "fake" vines onto which Christians attach themselves? What does it mean "to bear fruit" as a Christian? What fruits manifest in a Christian when he remains in Christ? While Jesus Christ is the True Vine, the Father is the vinedresser or gardener. How does the Father take care of the branches so that it will produce as many fruit as possible? Is it possible for a Christian not to bear fruit?
 - b. **A disciple of Christ abides in Him and bears fruits (v. 4-8).** Just as the branches continue to receive a steady supply of nourishment from the vine, the disciples are to continue to position themselves in a way that they are ready to accept everything that the vine has to give. What does it mean that bearing fruit is a result of consistently and constantly abiding in Christ? Does being busy for the Lord

mean that you are abiding in Him? In what way has God been taking away "dead" or useless pieces from your character? What are the benefits of abiding in Christ (v. 7-8).

- c. **A disciple of Christ manifests his faith by abiding in Jesus' love, keeping His commands, and nurturing a heart whose joy in the Lord is complete (v. 9-11).**
 - **Abiding in His love.** This is not just a mental accent, but a firm conviction of a heart that fully believes that everything God allows to take place in your life, pleasant or not, is motivated by God's love for you. Is there anything that you can do to make God unlove you? Share why you think that God loves you no matter what.
 - **Keeping His Commandments.** Abiding in Christ must show in your obedience to observe and to fulfill what Christ has commanded, doing it as a response to His love for you. As a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, how are you keeping His commands when you are at school, at work or at home?
 - **Joy is full or complete.** In the difficulties you experience in obeying God, there is joy that is not based on results, but rather on your union with Him, the unchanging character of God, and His constant presence in your life. Do you have joy that persists even in the midst of a difficult situation? Share a testimony when someone has seen the joy in your life because of your relationship with God.

Walk

A disciple of Christ acknowledges that Christ is the source of fruitfulness, abides in Him and bears fruits, and lives out his faith by abiding in Christ's love, keeping His commands, and having joy that is complete. Is God being glorified in your life? What ways should you work on to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you that my Lord Jesus Christ is the true vine and as a branch connected to Him, I have the necessary spiritual nutrients, support and strength that I need to be fruitful. Thank you that You are my vinedresser who prunes, shapes and lifts me up to produce fruits in my Christian life. I acknowledge, Father, that there are times I find it difficult to obey You. Help me to be a branch that bears fruit by abiding in Christ. May you help me to be a channel of blessings to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.