

## MAKING OUR HOME WITH JESUS

Jesus said: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*

John 15:5-7

- What do you think Jesus meant when He said, *"...ask what you desire, and it will be done for you?"* Does He really mean He'll give us anything we ask for?
- What would you ask Him for?

Don't forget, though, the "If" that starts off His promise: *If* you abide in me...and *if* my words abide in you... Jesus says that we must remain with Him, like a branch attached to its vine, drawing life from the vine.

I think of abiding in Jesus as staying close to Him, even though our lives are complex and there's much to distract us. I like to think of abiding in Jesus as us making our home with Him. It's like saying that God is our abode, our dwelling place.

I recently joined Facebook and what that did to my life! I was hooked. And yet, as I played with it I thought of Christ's words "abide in me." How I wanted to find the peace I needed and draw close to Him! ...And yet I kept poring over the things my friends were saying....And yet I posted and waited expectantly for comments to come back. I was trapped. We all get too wrapped up by the world sometimes, don't we?

- How would you like to make your home with Jesus? What are some of the things that distract you from abiding in Him?

How can we play with Facebook and the other things that draw us and stay close to Jesus too? We need to spend some time each day to give Him our undivided attention. Talking to God; reading our Bible. When we do that and ask for His help to stay close to Him, it *is* possible, no matter what we're doing.

What about the question we started off with?

Jesus said *“ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”* Is that possible? It’s hard to believe, isn’t it? It sounds too good to be true.

But it *is* true. Remember what Jesus said, *“If you abide in me and my words in you.* When we read our Bible and talk with Him we will know what is in line with His will for us. We will be guided in what to ask for. He will answer prayers like that.

- What kinds of things could we ask God for that are in line with His will for us?
- How can we learn what is in line with God’s will for us?

Remember what Jesus taught His disciples to pray:

*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in Heaven.*

We pray to help God’s Kingdom grow.

- What kinds of things help His Kingdom to grow?
- How could you be part of growing God’s Kingdom?

How welcoming it is in our complex lives – lives often fraught with emotional problems, to hear Jesus calling to us *“abide in me.”* How good to stay close, drawing our life from Him, as a branch draws life from the vine. Don’t you want to say *“yes”* to that invitation?