

MAKING OUR HOME WITH JESUS

“I am the Vine; you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.” (John 15:5-7 from The Message)

- What do you think Jesus meant when He said, *“whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.”* 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 make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home 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. 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 “make yourself at home with 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 by the world.

- 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 Him; reading Scripture. 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?

When we read Scripture and talk with God 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?

How welcoming it is in our complex lives – lives often fraught with emotional problems, to hear Jesus calling us to make our home with him. How good to stay close, drawing our life from Him, as a branch draws life from the vine.