



Abide in Christ

John 15:1-12

Signs of Jesus 2nd Coming

Summary of Matt 24 “Tell us, when will these things be?...”

- Jesus began by warning against deception v4
- Be not troubled by wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes – Beginning of sorrows v6-8
- Persecution of Christians v9
- Guard against being offended, and be not surprised by betrayal/hatred v10
- Rise of false prophets, lawlessness and backsliding v11-12
- Worldwide evangelism v14
- “Abomination of the desolate” spoken of by Daniel the prophet v15 (Israel) v15-22
- Great deception by false christs and prophets with signs and wonders v24-26
- Signs in the heavens v29



Signs of Jesus 2nd Coming

- **Summary of Matt 24 “Tell us, when will these things be?...”**
- THEN the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the heaven v30
- Every tribe on earth will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming on clouds of heaven with power and great glory v30
- Note: No one knows the day or the hour! – Not even the angels of heaven **but God the Father ONLY** v36
- As the days of Noah *were* **so also** will the coming of the Son of Man be v37



Signs of Jesus 2nd Coming

- **Summary of Matt 24 “Tell us, when will these things be?...”**
- What then should our **attitude and posture** be?
- **Learn** the parable of the Fig Tree **to see the signs** that it is near – at the doors! V32-35
- Next chapter, Matt 25, Jesus relates the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins
- Jesus says “**Watch therefore**, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming” Matt 25:13
- Watch – G1127 gregoreuo meaning “**keep awake**”, “**vigilant**”, “**watchful**”
- Example of master of house if he had known what hour he thief would come, he would have watched and not allow his house to be broken into v43



Being watchful Matt 25

- **Be Vigilant against** the following:
- Unbelieving and scoffing attitude 2 Peter 3:1-4
- (2Pe 3:4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.
- Totally unprepared like foolish virgins Matt 25:
- But **BE PREPARED** like the wise virgins
- Trim our lamps (Individual responsibility to ourselves! As in Phil 2:12-13 “....**work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling; for it is **God who works in you** both to will and to do...”)
- Keep constant supply of oil (of the Holy Spirit. Jude 1:20 “...building yourselves up on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Spirit**)
- Avail the enduring principles of spiritual life aka “Abiding in Christ”!



Abide in Christ

- **Summary on Abide in Christ – All who come to Jesus**
- **First Step: “Come unto Me”** → Receives rest for your soul
- By “Come unto Me” **Jesus also meant “Abide in Me”**
- **Abiding in Christ** → Abiding rest
- **Secret** of Abiding in Christ? **TIME for Jesus with continual practice daily**
- Visualise John 15:4-5 and actualize drawing your need from Jesus



Abide in Christ

- **Summary on Abide in Christ – And find rest for your souls**
- **“Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me”** → Find rest for your soul
- Receiving rest vs Finding rest; Fishing analogy
- **Secret** to finding rest? **Total surrender to Jesus**
- Why we withdraw from fully committing to God is lack of faith in His Goodness because of devil’s deception (that God will rob us of the best)
- Reject devil’s deception and choose to trust God by surrendering to Him!



Abide in Christ

• Summary – Trusting Him to Keep You

- “Abide in Christ” is exactly meant for us, the WEAK and HELPLESS
- “Abide in Christ” is not a commandment of the Law but of LOVE under GRACE
- “Abide in Christ” is an act of FAITH. Just believe and give Him consent
- “Abiding in Christ” is the FRUIT of Christ’s work in us, for us and through us
- “DO NOT put the cart before the horse!” It won’t work.
- Believe, Yield and Wait Thou, my soul on the LORD
- “...’My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities (weakness), that the power of Christ may rest upon me” 2 Cor 12:9



Abide in Christ

- As the branch in the Vine
 - John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches.....”
 - It’s in the context of Parable of Vine that Jesus used the expression “Abide in Me”
 - Like the Vine, our union with Jesus is a **living one** and **the Creator’s Work**
 - (Gal 4:6) And becauseGod hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts,...
 - **Not** man’s work or human wisdom or human will but effected by God through His Son Jesus
- The depth of need for a branch to be in union with the Vine!
 - John 15:5 “....for without Me you can do nothing”
 - Completeness of the branch/Vine union. The branch is nothing without the Vine
 - In truth, the branch (us) will wither if not abiding in the Vine (Jesus)
 - Inflow of life-sap of the Holy Spirit is His power to bring forth wholeness and fruit



Abide in Christ

- O the humility and condescension of our Lord!
 - Much as the branch is nothing without the Vine, the Vine is only complete with branches.
 - The Vine has its place in the Father's vineyard because of its fruitful branch
 - By His design, the Vine bears fruit through the branch. Christ blesses the world through us!
 - We have been given this high honour. **All praise and glory be to our God!**
- All that the Vine possesses is available to the branch! O what wonder!
 - All the rich nutrients the Vine gathers is at the disposal of the branch. Nothing is kept.
 - (Joh 17:22) "And the glory which You gave me I have given them;..."
 - (Joh 14:12) "He who believes on me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do;..."
 - (Joh 1:16) "And of his fulness we have all received,..."



Abide in Christ

- Conversely, all the branch possesses belongs to the Vine
 - The branch exists not for itself but to bear fruit that can proclaim the excellence of the Vine
 - This is the primary function for the branch. Fruit bearing.
 - Believer, understand what we are to the Vine and the Vine to the branch!
 - Let us serve to fulfill the purpose God has designed for us and be fruitful to His Glory
- So the object of living union of Vine and branch is for fruit and fruit alone
 - Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He (the Father – Vinedresser) takes away
 - He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit
 - As the Vine (Jesus) is, so every branch in living union with the Vine is also



Abide in Christ

- Conclusion

- “Abiding in Christ” is the **enduring principle of spiritual life (Staying awake)**
- The union of the Vine and the branch is a **living union and is the Creator’s work**
- The **depth of need** for the branch to be in union with the Vine – It’s very life
- The Vine and the branch, each is nothing without the other; each is wholly and only for the other. **Both in fruitful union becomes of significance in the Father’s Vineyard**
- All the fullness the Vine possesses **is available** to the branch
- All the branch possesses **belongs** to the Vine
- Object of union is **fruitfulness**
- As the Vine (Jesus) is, so every branch in living union with the Vine is also



Abide in Christ

- James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, **DECEIVING** yourselves





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