John 15:1-4

Remain in Me Part I

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer. 2 Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already pruned clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

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Meditation Question: How does the Father prune us, and why?
Meditation Question: How does the Father prune us and clean us through the words He speaks to us?
4 Remain in me, and I in you. As the branch can't bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you, unless you remain in me.
Meditation Question: What does it mean to remain in Jesus and He in us?
John 15:5-8 Remain in Me Part II
5 I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
Meditation Question: Explain this verse in your own words.
Meditation Question: What fruit will be produced in us if we remain in Jesus?
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Meditation Question: What did Jesus mean when He said, "Apart from Me you can do nothing." Give one or two examples.

6 If a man doesn't remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Meditation Question: What does it mean to NOT remain in Jesus?

7 If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it will be done for you.

Meditation Question: What does this passage teach about prayer?

8 "In this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples.

Meditation Question: How does this verse impact your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

John 15:1-8

Remain in Me Part III
Passive Abiding and Active Abiding

(Listen to the audio before answering the questions below.)

Meditation Question: What is "passive abiding?" What is "active abiding?"

John 15:9-13

Remain in My Love Part I

9 Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love.

Meditation Question: What goes through your heart and mind when you read this invitation from Jesus' to, "Remain in My love?"

10 If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and remain in his love.

Meditation Question: How can we remain in His love? How did Jesus remain in His Father's love?

11 I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Meditation Question: How do people in the world try to find joy? What is the key to having "fullness of joy" according to Jesus?

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Meditation Question: How can you love others the way Jesus loved you this week? How can we lay down our lives for our friends?

John 15:13-17

Remain in My Love Part II

13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn't know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you.

Meditation Question: How does Jesus love His friends? Why do you think Jesus reveals Himself to His friends and not to servants?

16 You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you will ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Meditation Question: What is God's part and what is our part in bearing fruit? What is "fruit that remains?" How does this affect your understanding of prayer?

17 "I command these things to you, that you may love one another.

Meditation Question: Why do you think Jesus repeated His command in verse 17 after already saying it in verse 12?

John 15:18-27

The world will hate you! The Spirit will help you.

18 If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, since I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his lord.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But they will do all these things to you for my name's sake, because they don't know him who sent me.

Meditation Question: What does "world" mean? Do you think we will be hated and persecuted?

22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates me, hates my Father also. 24 If I hadn't done among them the works which no one else did, they wouldn't have had sin. But now they have seen and also hated both me and my Father. 25 But this happened so that the word may be fulfilled which was written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.'

Meditation Question: Why were the Jewish leaders who rejected Jesus without excuse? Can you think of any examples of people who hate Jesus and His Father in modern times.

26 "When the Counselor has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will testify about me. 27 You will also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Meditation Question: How will "the Spirit of truth" help us when we share about Jesus when facing persecution?