

Leader Notes – John 15:12-17

Review: Jesus explained that after the coming of the Holy Spirit, His disciples would have a unique abiding relationship with Him that would empower them to bear much fruit for the kingdom (15:4-5). Beginning in verse 12, Jesus explains that the fruit of this “abiding” would include loving one another like Jesus loved them.

John 15:12 (NASB95) — 12 “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

- The fruit of the abiding relationship with Jesus is that his disciples love one another like He loved them.

How did Jesus love his disciples?

1. He loved them Sacrificially (v.13)
 - In what ways can we “lay down our lives” on a regular basis for one another?
 - What would it feel like if this were the norm in the local church?
2. He called the disciples “friends” (v.14-15)
 - Jesus contrasted his approach to leadership to that of a slave and master. What are some of the differences between a “relationship based” leadership style and a “master-slave” leadership style?
 - One of the marks of a “relationship based” leadership model is that Jesus disclosed the will of the Father to His disciples. How did that communicate value to His disciples?
3. Jesus “chose” His disciples (v.16a)
 - Why do you think Jesus makes this point? How would this make the disciples feel?
 - Paul teaches that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4). How does this make you feel?
4. Jesus “appointed” the disciples to bear fruit (v.16b)
 - Not only did Jesus choose His disciples, he chose them for a purpose – to bear fruit. In other words, it is God’s divine plan to use these “unschooled and untrained men” (Acts 4:13) to accomplish His will in the world.
 - What is God’s purpose in using the “weak” to accomplish His will?
 - How does this determine how we value one another in the church?
 - How does this truth cause us to remain humble in our service?
5. Jesus “empowered” His disciples (v.16c)
 - Through Jesus, the disciples would have direct access to God’s power to carry out His will. The key is to continue to abide in Jesus (15:5). What are some of the ways we can maintain this abiding relationship to Jesus?
 - How can we encourage other members of the body of Christ to do the same?