

Introduction: The Christian life is not a matter of doing more or behaving better. It's a matter of going _____.

Invitation #1 → Come to Me

The promise = Peace, rest, wholeness, guidance, and acceptance.

Invitation #2 → Follow Me

The promise = Purpose, direction, meaning, and fulfillment.

Invitation #3 → _____ = Intentionally staying connected to Jesus.

The promise = Freedom, joy, power, and fruitfulness.

Why it's hard to abide:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Context of the invitation

John 13-17

Chapter 13 – The Lord’s Supper and Jesus washes the disciples’ feet.

Chapter 14 – Jesus is going to prepare a place.

Chapter 15 – Jesus uses a metaphor to say, “I’m leaving physically, but I want you to stay connected to Me.

Chapter 16 – Jesus says, “The Holy Spirit is going to dwell in you and manifest My presence.”

Chapter 17 – Jesus is praying for the disciples and for us.

¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it **abides** in the vine, so neither can you unless you **abide in Me**. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who **abides in Me** and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not **abide in Me**, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. ⁷ If you **abide in Me**, and My words **abide** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; **abide in My love**. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will **abide in My love**; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and **abide** in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

John 15:1-11

What did Jesus teach the disciples about abiding?

The answer (John 15:1-11)

A metaphor (v.1)

A process (v.2-5)

A warning (v.6)

A promise (v.7)

The outcome (v. 8-10)

The purpose (v. 11)

Disciples – “process to abide”

Fearful – Confused, anxious

Failure – They flee

Hopeful – Death defeated

Promises – Trust His Word

Prayer – Receive power of the Holy Spirit

Preach – Acts 2, fruit

Jesus invites you to abide in Him



The Wheel Diagram – created by Navigator
founder Dawson Trotman in 1930

WHEEL ILLUSTRATION

- ⇒ The wheel serves as a guide in our own personal growth, and as a basis for abiding in Christ.
- ⇒ A wheel is dynamic, always moving.
- ⇒ When a wheel moves the hub is seen, not the spokes; power comes from the hub.
- ⇒ Balanced spokes make for a smooth and directed ride.
- ⇒ The emphasis of the spokes is relationship. Love is the goal.
- ⇒ Vertically, between God and us.
- ⇒ Horizontally, between people and us.
- ⇒ Obedience is where the rubber hits the road.
- ⇒ A wheel moves in a particular direction. As the wheel of the Christian life moves, ask yourself:
 - Why is it going (purpose)?
 - Where is it going (goal)?

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus teach about abiding at this point in His ministry?
2. Why is it so critical to stay connected to Jesus and His power daily?
3. What are your biggest challenges/barriers to abiding in Jesus?
4. What in Chip's story was most encouraging, helpful, or new to you?
5. What specific step do you need to take this week to abide? Who will you ask to help you make and keep your commitment?