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The Gospel In One Word

JOHN 15:9-17

Introduction

1. Do you like jigsaw puzzles?
 - a. I know some of you who do.
 - b. I am sure there are others of you who do not.
2. Becky and I love jigsaw puzzles, but we do not hold a candle to my father.
3. Tell the story of the puzzle in the wrong box.
4. The point in all this is that jigsaw puzzles rely on connecting pieces, and oftentimes one piece determines whether or not others can be put in.
5. Our lives as Christians is like that — certain pieces must be in place before others can be added.
6. Tonight, I would like for you to look closely at John 15:9-17 with me.
7. In these verses there are six phrases which Jesus uses.
8. Each is only two words long and begins with the word “My.”
9. As we look at them I would like for you to see how Jesus brings us back to one word which connects them all together.

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A. MY WORDS

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:7, NASB95)

1. How do we know that we are abiding (remaining) in Christ and His words are abiding in us?
2. At the end of His sermon which Luke records for us in chapter 6 of his

gospel, Jesus said it is when we hear His words and act on them (Luke 6:47).

- a. He said that when we do this we are like “a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built” (Luke 6:47, NASB95).
 - b. In other words, when we hear His words and act on them we are building our lives on a solid foundation, that of our Lord.
3. Earlier, on this same evening, Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him” (John 14:23, NASB95).
4. If you and I abide in Christ, and His words abide in us, we can ask whatever we wish, and it will be done for us. Why?
- a. It will be done for us for two reasons:
 - 1) We are abiding (dwelling) in Him.

David: “Let me dwell in Your tent forever; Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings.” (Psalm 61:4, NASB95)

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1, NASB95)
 - 2) His words are abiding (dwelling) in us.
 - a) We meditate upon them (Psalm 1:2).
 - b) They are our guiding beacon through life (Psalm 119:105).
 - b. “Ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (v. 7).
 - 1) We can ask whatever we wish, because we are dwelling in Christ and His words are dwelling in us.
 - 2) Our heart’s desire is now to do that which pleases Him.

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B. MY DISCIPLES

“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” (John 15:8, NASB95)

1. The second “My” of which Jesus speaks is the result of our abiding in Him and His word abiding in us.
 - a. First, we are able to “bear much fruit.”
 - 1) The “fruit of the Spirit” — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22,23).
 - 2) The “fruit of the Light” — goodness, righteousness, truth (Ephesians 5:9).
 - 3) Souls won to Christ.
 - b. Second, we glorify God.
2. We prove ourselves to be Christ’s disciples — His faithful followers

**He leadeth me! O blessed thought,
O words with heav’nly comfort fraught;
Whate’er I do, where’er I be,
Still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.**

(“He Leadeth Me” by Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862)

Slide 4**C. MY LOVE**

“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 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.” (John 15:9–10, NASB95)

1. Notice what Jesus says here:
 - a. The Father has loved Him.
 - b. He has, in turn, loved us.
 - c. We have the responsibility to “abide,” “remain,” “stay’ in His love.

2. How do we do that?
 - a. At the end of the verse, Jesus said that He has abode (remained) in His Father's love by keeping His Father's commandments.
 - b. In the same way, He tells us that we abide (remain) in His love by keeping His commandments.
3. Simply put, our remaining in Jesus' love doesn't involve any mystical experience, simply our obedience of His commands.

Slide 5**D. MY JOY**

"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:11, NASB95)

1. Jesus told His disciples that He had spoken these things to them so that His joy might be in them and that their joy might be full.
2. In 1 John 5:3, the apostle John wrote "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."
3. Our submission to Christ's will in our lives is not a hardship.
4. If anything, it brings joy, the joy of Christ's presence filling up our hearts.
5. A week ago this past Sunday morning, we looked at Peter's statement in 1 Peter 1:7 where he wrote to the Christians in Asia Minor and said the various trials they were experiencing would demonstrate the "genuineness" of their faith and would result in "praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
6. Peter knew these Christians had never seen Jesus in the flesh, so he added the words we find in verse 8: "though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8, NASB95).
7. At the end of Psalm 16, David wrote these words to God, "You will make

known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever” (Psalm 16:11, NASB95).

8. As Christians, you and I are to be people of joy — a gloomy Christian is a contradiction of terms.
9. How can any of us fail to have joy in our lives when we walk with the King.

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E. MY COMMANDMENT

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12–13, NASB95)

1. Earlier, in verse 10, Jesus spoke of His commandments and His Father’s commandments.
2. Here, however, He speaks of “My commandment” (singular) and tells His disciples to “love one another, just as I have loved you.”
3. Earlier in the evening, shortly after washing the disciples feet, Jesus said to them, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34, NASB95).
4. Jesus commands each of us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ even as He loved us.
5. John did not forget this command — He made sure the Christians to whom he wrote remembered it:

“This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.” (1 John 3:23, NASB95)

“Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.” (2 John 5, NASB95)

6. It is a love which is willing to lay down our own lives for another.

- ❑ Do you and I have this kind of love?

Slide 7**F. MY FRIENDS**

“You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
(John 15:14–15, NASB95)

1. Do not miss this. Jesus called the disciples “My friends.”
2. Up to this point there is only one person whom God called His friend — Abraham (James 2:23).
3. There is something else we must not miss — it is the fact that nowhere in Scripture is God or Jesus ever referred to as the ‘friend’ of anyone.
4. Jesus said that He called them His friends because He had revealed to them everything which His Father had spoken to Him.
5. Now, they would remain His friends if they obeyed His commands.
6. Does Jesus consider you His friend?

Conclusion**Slide 8**

1. As we conclude our lesson tonight, I want you to look closely at the last two verses in our text.
2. First, verse 16:

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.” (John 15:16, NASB95)

- a. With everything that Jesus has told His disciples up to this point about the privileges they enjoy, He knows there is the danger that they might become “conceited” or “puffed up.”

- b. He lets them know that it isn't because they are wiser or better than other men, or even that they have made the right choices, but because He chose them.
- c. He "appointed" them, not only that they would bear fruit, but that their fruit would "remain," that it would last.
- d. Christ's desire for all of us is that we bear fruit which will last.
- e. As we seek to be the hands of Jesus here in our community and to rebuild this congregation, let's do two things:
 - 1) Remember that we are God's servants and as such we must humble ourselves before God (James 4:10). He is the one who will exalt us in due time.
 - 2) Ask Him to help us bear fruit which will last far beyond our lifetime.

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3. Secondly, look at verse 17:

"This I command you, that you love one another" (John 15:17).

- a. This is the new commandment which Jesus had previously given to His disciples (John 13:34).
 - b. It is the proof by which all people will know that we are His disciples (John 13:35).
 - c. If we love Him, He said we will keep His commandments.
 - d. It is also by keeping His commandments that we "abide" (remain) in His love, and He abides in us and enables us to bear much fruit.
4. Thus we can say that the gospel in one word is love.
5. Do you love God? Is it evident by your life?