



Sermons of the Savior

John 15:9-27

Lesson 19

Jesus has not called us to rest in our salvation by living dormant lives as we wait for Him to call us home. He addressed His calling on the lives of those who would follow Him in John 15. In the beginning verses of this chapter, we learned that *without* Jesus we can do nothing. The latter verses of this chapter help us to understand what a life that truly *abides* in Jesus will look like and can expect to be like. May we be encouraged to be the *friends* Jesus calls us to be.

OBSERVATION: Read John 15:9-27

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father*, *Jesus*, and the *Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *Father*, *Jesus*, *Holy Spirit*, *love(ed)*, *abide/remain*, *fruit*, and *hated/hates*
3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used nine times in John 15:9-27. Mark each time these words are used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used in verse 19. Mark the word as a key and record the conclusion it was based upon.
5. Choose one of the key words provided in question #2 and make a list of what you learn about that word as it is used in this homework.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. Describe what you think is different about the way Christians love one another.
2. What is the difference between a servant and a friend?
3. What causes people to hate each other?

CHOSEN TO LOVE: Read John 15:9-12

1. Jesus began this chapter with a comparison. To what relationship did Jesus liken His relationship with believers?
 - a. What do John 3:35 and 5:20 teach us about the Father's love for Jesus?
 - 1.) Although we are not as trustworthy as Jesus, how can these actions of love from the Father be applied to us?
2. To be able to personally experience John 3:35 and 5:20 (as it would apply to the believer), what must we *abide* in?
 - a. Record the words of Jude 1:21.
 - 1.) How can we do this?
3. According to John 15:10, what is evidence of *abiding in Jesus' love*?
 - a. What do the following verses teach us about *obeying God's commandments*?
 - 1 Corinthians 7:19
 - 1 John 2:5

4. What does 1 John 5:3 teach about *God's commandments*?
 - a. Rather than being a burden to us, why did Jesus tell His disciples that He was *speaking these things*? verse 11
 - 1.) In what ways have you discovered the *joy of keeping His commandments*?

5. Jesus expects us to *keep His commandments*. What commandment does He emphasize in John 15:12?
 - a. How do the words *as I have loved you* help you to understand how you are to *love* others?

 - b. How has Jesus *loved you*?

CHOSEN TO BE HIS FRIENDS: Read John 15:13-15

1. What do John 15:13,14 teach us about *friendship*?
 - a. How do you think these two verses are related?

 - b. Few believers are called to actually lay down their life for others. In what ways has God called you to sacrifice or deny yourself for the sake of others?

2. *No longer do I call you servants....* (John 15:15). According to this verse, what is the difference between a *servant* and a *friend*?
 - a. Consider this sign of Jesus' friendship towards you. What are some of your thoughts?

CHOSEN TO BEAR FRUIT: Read John 15:16-17

1. *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them* (Ephesians 2:10). As believers, we have been chosen for a purpose. According to John 15:16, what have we been *appointed* to do?
 - a. What enablement is promised at the end of this verse?
 - 1.) Record a few thoughts of appreciation as you consider the value of this promise as it is connected to your calling to *bear fruit*.
2. What might be an example of *fruit that remains*?
3. How do you think John 15:17 is related to *bearing fruit*?

CHOSEN TO SUFFER PERSECUTION: Read John 15:18-25

1. As you scan the verses in this lesson, note that a key word of the prior section is *love*. John 15:18 begins a section with a new key word being emphasized. What is it?
 - a. Make a list of three things this section teaches us about the *world's hatred* of believers.
2. Why does the *world hate* those who belong to Christ?
3. According to verse 20, what are we to *remember* when we experience *hatred* from the *world*?
4. How does the world today *hate* the followers of Christ?
5. When do you not feel a part of this *world*?
 - a. When do you feel like you are still a part of this *world*?

6. Why do you think Jesus warned the disciples (and all who would believe after them) about the *world's* response to them?

CHOSEN TO BEAR WITNESS: Read John 15:26-27

1. John 15:26 begins with the word of contrast, *but*. Although we are to expect *hatred* from those who do not know Christ, what *help* can we expect from the Holy Spirit?
 - a. According to verse 27, what *shall we also* do?
 - b. The words *testify* and *bear witness* are translated from the same Greek word. Explain what it means to *testify* or *bear witness* of Jesus.
2. Why do you think the truth of John 15:26 is important to apply, before applying the command of John 15:27?
 - a. There are so many roles of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think these two titles are important to remember when faced with the *world's hatred* as a response to *bearing witness* of Jesus?
3. The disciples had been with Jesus *from the beginning* (John 15:27). What are some things they had experienced as a result of being with Jesus?
 - a. The disciples were to use what they had learned as they *bore witness* of Jesus. What are some things you have learned that you can share with others?

REVIEW: Read John 15:9-27

1. Through the study of this lesson, what did you learn about your calling to:

love others

be a friend of Jesus

bear fruit

suffer persecution

bear witness

2. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson to walk in Jesus' calling on your life?

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

- Acts 4:20

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us,
that we should be called children of God!*

Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

- 1 John 3:1

Observation Worksheet

John 15:9-27

"As the Father loved Me, I also have 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, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's 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 a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not 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 ask the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that you love one another. ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but 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 master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.' ²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.