

SERMON OUTLINE John 15:12-17

I Chose You to Love, Obey, Befriend, Teach, and Pray

I CHOSE AND APPOINTED YOU (16A)

To Love One Another (12, 13, 17)

To Obey Me (12, 14)

For Friendship with Me (14-15)

To Teach (15)

To Pray (16b)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that Jesus chose His followers and He did so in order that they might bear lasting fruit among all mankind. Throughout the six verses, Jesus named five specific kinds of abiding fruit: love, obedience, friendship, teaching, and prayer. Consequently, the main takeaways are to love, obey, befriend, teach, and pray.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. In your own words, what is the purpose of John's Gospel? Has it served its purpose in your life?
3. Who are you? Why are you here? Is there any ultimate meaning? Why is life hard? What is good and evil? What happens after you die? Are you free? Why do you desire the things you desire? Is there anything that influences your choices?
4. Had you ever thought of the need to answer questions like those above as a part of what it means to bear God's image?
5. How would you describe the relationship between God's sovereignty and the choices you make?
6. Does it sound like good news to you that Jesus chose His followers/they did not choose Him (v.16)?
7. In what ways have you loved by laying down your life for another? Have you ever loved an enemy into a friend?
8. Can you explain how obedience is tied to friendship with Jesus? How is obedience connected to salvation?
9. What makes for a good friend? Had you ever considered Jesus as a friend? What would it look like if you did?
10. Which aspect of God's Word is hardest for you to understand and obey? Which is hardest to share with others?
11. Describe your prayer life? Would you describe it as expectant? Fruitful? Consistent? Encouraging? Powerful?
12. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Love. Find specific ways to lay your life down for others this week—fellow Christians and non-Christians. Pour yourself out for their good. Love generously. Love sacrificially. Love courageously. Love purposefully. Love salvifically.
14. Obey. Find the commands of Jesus and test your heart against them. Where you are reluctant to obey, repent. Where you are eager to obey, ask God for a right heart and sufficient help and give yourself to obedience.
15. Befriend. If your hope is in Jesus, spend some time considering the simple fact that He is your friend. Live like it.
16. Teach. Spend one hour this week carefully studying a passage of scripture. Share what you learn with someone.
17. Pray. Make a list of people to pray for each day this week (family, unbelieving neighbors, pastors, DG, sick, etc.). Pray specific passages of scripture for each group. Trust that God hears and is working.
18. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
19. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God for being merciful, gracious, a friend to sinners, wise, sacrificial, friendly, fruitful, and good.
21. Confess. Confess your own sense of autonomy. Confess a lack of love, obedience, friendship, truth-seeking, and prayer.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for choosing you, for loving you, for giving good commands for you to obey, for revealing His will to you, and for hearing your prayers and working through them.
23. Supplication. Ask God to help our church love well. Ask God to make us more obedient and friendly. Ask God to fill us with the courage to fearlessly proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth. Ask God to help us trust enough to pray continually.