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Isaiah 55:8-11

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. ¹⁰“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. ¹¹It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Review

W1: I Am Who I Am

W5: The Good Shepherd

W2: The Bread of Life

W6: The Resurrection

W3: The Light of the World

W7: The Way, Truth & Life

W4: The Door

W8: The Vine

THE VINE**John 15:1-12**

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. ⁹“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ¹²This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

- He is the vine, we are the branches
- He cuts away branches that don’t bear fruit. What is fruit? (Galatians 5:22)
- Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives (A choice of dependence)
- He prunes those who DO bear fruit. You have already been pruned, purified, cleaned by the message.
- As believers we are pruned at times. We have “Valley Moments” (2 Corinthians 12:8-10)
- A branch can’t bear fruit if it is severed from the vine.
- Apart from Him, we can do nothing! Remain in Him.
- Those who choose to not remain and don’t bear fruit are thrown away like a useless branch.
- 1 John 4:9-10, 1 John 4:16-18
- Remain in me and let my words remain in you.
- His true disciples are the ones who follow his commands. They are to love each other.
- His commands are not burdensome. 1 John 5:1-3
- Remain in His love, Know and hear His voice, and let Him be Lord.
- Sit at his feet.

He is the Bread of life - the source that sustains us.
He is the Light of the world that saves us from darkness.
He is the Door into eternity that has been opened by his blood.
He is the Good Shepherd who calls to us leads us and cares for us.
He is the Resurrection and the Life - the old is gone and the new has come.
He is the Way, the Truth and the Life - No other statement needed
He is the Vine - the one we can abide in and the one we can trust is always with us and shaping us.

BOTTOM LINE:

- Jesus has invited us to remain in him, but it's our choice.
- As we remain in him, he shapes us, cleans us, and prunes us for our good.
- He then sends us to go and make disciples, sharing the love of Christ, and teaching others to obey him.
- As we do so, there will be opposition and persecution but in our weakness, he is strong.

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! ⁴² There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you this week?
2. Read John 15:1-15
 - *Is it hard for you to abide with Jesus in this season of life?*
 - *Do you ever struggle to remain in God's love for you?*
 - *It says that God's true disciples obey Christ. Why is this important to know? What does that mean?*
3. Read Luke 10:38-42
 - *What does this story have to do with abiding?*
 - *Do you relate more to Mary or Martha? Why?*
4. Which of the I Am Statements did you need to be reminded of most in this season and why?
5. What is one step you are willing to take in your walk with Christ after going through this series?
6. Prayer requests