

# Abiding

John 14:15-24

It's been a thing these last few weeks that you learn the aftermath  
By looking to the beforemath

The things immediately before  
Help you understand the world after.

So last week we looked at Jesus in John 14 talking about

- Place. The unique place of relation between us and God
- Way. The provocatively exclusive claim that Jesus makes, I am the way to God
- Ask. The held out life, of being prepared to ask everything of the Father

Now we come to the next passage, and this time there is a lot of abiding going on,  
There is a threefold abiding.

Notice then in verse 15-17

It is this mysterious new character, the called-alongside existence of God  
The Paraclete, the Counsellor who is called the "Spirit of Truth" (v17)

We are told that  
"He is in you, and he abides in you".

Then in verse 18, I will not leave you orphaned  
And  
"On that day, you will not that I am in the Father, and you in me, and I am in you"  
There is lots of in-ning going on.

\*\*\* This part by the way always makes me think of a man called William Rutherford, who was a doctor and missionary from Northern Ireland - he was one of these people who lived a truly remarkable life - after he had been a missionary he came back to Northern Ireland and did the research that led to the compulsory wearing of seatbelts, he also helped found the Corrymeela Community, he also gave rise to a law called Rutherford's law of disasters - he was a deeply infused, spiritual man, who also wrote hymns- he had a wife called Iphnie who died, and after she died, he was grieved, deeply grieve, until he had an insight based on this thinking.

He said, that I realised that Iphnie is in Christ  
And that I am in Christ

Then Iphnie is not very far away.

But this is the son in Us

And you remember previously the Spirit was in us

And finally in verse 23

“Those who love me will keep my word and my Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home in them”

So do you notice the movement

That together the Father, the Son and the Spirit

Together

Make their home in me.

Last week we said that in the Father’s house there were many rooms

And now in a very similar word, we discover that God has many rooms

And those are in us the Church.

Now we could just sit down with that thought for the next 20 minutes, 20 days, 20 years

And just sit with that

That God has made God’s home in us.

This is so powerful...

The first chapter of Elijah is remarkable in the Bible,

There has been nothing quite like it in the Bible

He stands before the King, and says, unless by word there will be not rain in the land

And then he disappears and is fed by ravens

And then he goes to a widow, and she has oil

And then the son dies, and he pulls him up to his upper room

And he lies on top of him

And there is a great piece of parallelism in the text, of Elijah breathing and God moving together

And the son is revived, made to live.

And this is a picture of what God-inside-you life might look like

It is like having nuclear reactor inside of you

That much power,

And no one has ever experienced anything like this before.

And so when Jesus says

The Paraclete is in you  
The Son is in you  
The Father is in you

And what does this great power give us  
The power to love the son  
In fact the love of the son is the doorway to all of this

Love the son  
Keep the Commandments  
The Father comes

Oh help me to love the son...

How do you love the son...

You meet the one in the manger, and you see the giving up  
You meet the one on the lake, calming the storm, walking with the disciples  
You see him with the women, he was always with the women  
You see him, this mystic man with all of this language, flowing, and you know that God is inside of him



You see him challenging us, saying hard hard words to our complacency  
You see him take on the princes false religion  
You see him scourged, and whipped, and thorned  
You see him saying - it is finished

It is to draw near  
Sometimes I find him too much sometimes  
And I must ask the Spirit to draw me near to him  
Teach me Oh God to love the son

Teach me to love the Son...

At the Coronation did you see this screen

And at the bottom are the words  
All shall be well  
And all manner of Things shall be well

These are from Julian of Norwich.

I am drawn very much today to a woman called Julian of Norwich,  
Whose feast day was last Monday - the 8th May  
She lived in Norwich in the 1300s - she saw the Black Death, the Peasants Revolt  
She lived in a cell, built into the side of a Cathedral  
And saw in visions, after her recovery from illness, the deep love of God.  
She was the first woman ever to publish in English - any of you who is a woman and written a  
book  
Or read a book by a woman -  
It was all started by Julian

She spoken in the same swirling forms of language as Jesus here  
That is the way that they always do when they are in the presence of God  
Sentence structure breaks down.

There was a famous image that she had of the hazelnut,  
Which she saw as analogy for the very love of God,

"If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love."

- Julian of Norwich (c.1342-c.1417)

"Would you learn your Lord's meaning in this thing?  
Learn it well - love was his meaning



Who showed it to you? Love  
What did he show you? Only love  
Why did he show you? For love  
You will never learn in it any other meaning."

"And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, 'What may this be?' And it was answered generally thus, 'It is all that is made.' I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it."

And she it was who said

"All shall be well  
And All shall be well  
And all manner of things  
Shall be well"

We love  
Because he first loved us first

So sense the love  
And then love him

And then he will move into you  
Father, Son, Spirit

And that is the gospel today  
That is the gospel  
AMEN