



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – May 21, 2022

The Lord be with you.

I live in the Great Southwest of United States where I frequently see or hear the Spanish phrase, *mi casa es su casa*, that is, My House is your House. They are warm words of invitation. Come right on in. And make yourself at home. My house is your house. Those words come to mind today as I ponder words of Jesus that I wanna share with you. Words of Jesus from John chapter 15, words that Jesus speaks to His disciples there in the upper room on the night before he lays down his life for us. John chapter 15 verse 4, where Jesus invites, abide in me as I abide in you. I like how the Message version translates, Jesus' words live in me, make your home in me, just as I do in you.

You know, I think we could probably reflect on this all day, these powerful, amazing words of Jesus abide in me, make your home in me, live in me as I live and make my home in you. Jesus didn't come to help us, Jesus came to include us, to include us in His very life, to share His divine life with us. Abide in me as I abide in you.

The Greek word translated abide is the word *Meno*, that's M-E-N-O, and it's a word that's filled with all the warmth and good feelings that we usually associate with home, home sweet home. That place where you can kick off your shoes and relax. And you can be, you. Now, my wife and I recently, we were on the road for a few weeks and we had a wonderful time, but coming home, I actually said, Oh, it's good to be home. That's the idea that's wrapped up in this Greek word *meno*. You know, we stay in this hotel for a few nights or that hotel for a few nights, but *meno* implies permanency constancy. This is where I make my home. This is where I belong. So the Greek word *meno* suggests permanency constancy. I might stay for a few nights in a hotel... That's temporary. But *meno* is where I belong, that's where I make my home. It's where I live my life. So feel the force, feel the impact of Jesus words, inviting you inviting me, abide in me. Live in me as I abide and live in you. That through all the ups and downs of our lives, or all the different stages we go through, we live our lives in Christ as he lives his life in us.

I know a man who begins each day with a simple prayer, you are God, I am not... What are we going to do today?

Christ's invitation for you and me to live our lives in him as he lives in us. It's what the Apostle Paul was talking about in Galatians chapter 2, verse 20, as he says, it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. Growing in the Christian life is growing in the awareness, in the consciousness



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that we are living our lives in Christ as he is living in us. It's a grand adventure. It is the growing trust that we are making our home in Christ, as he has made his home in us. It is a growing awareness of our oneness with Jesus, that Jesus did not come to help us, that he came to include in his life. It means that you and I are graced and privileged to live today in total reliance, and Jesus living in us. That each breath we draw, we draw from him and his divine power and life, so that we can say with the Apostle Paul in Philippians Chapter 4 verse 13, I can do all things to Christ who strengthens me.

Now, Jesus' words in which He invites us to abide, to live our lives in Him as He lives in us, it brings to mind the poem, "Covenant" that's written by Margaret Alaska. It goes like this.

God knocks at my door, seeking a home for his son.

Rent is cheap. I say.

I don't wanna rent, I want to buy, says God.

I'm not sure I wanna sell. You might come in to look around.

I think I will says God.

I might let you have a room or two.

I like it, says God. I'll take the two. You might decide to give me more someday, I can wait, says God. I'd like to give you more, but it's a difficult... I need some space for me.

I know, says God, but I'll wait. I like what I see.

Maybe I can let you have another room... I really don't need that much.

Thanks says God, I'll take it. I like what I see.

I'd like to give you the whole house, but I'm not sure...

Think on it, says God. I wouldn't put you out, your house would be mine and my son would live in it, you'd have more space than you'd ever had before...

I don't understand at all.

I know, says God, but I can't tell you about that. You'll have to do it for yourself, that can only happen if you let me have the whole house...



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A bit risky, I say.

Yes, says God, but try me. I'm not sure.

I'll let you know.

I can wait, says, God, I like what I see.

The good news of Jesus Christ is that God likes what he sees. And God would like your whole house, your whole life, for His Son, for you to abide in Him as He abides in you.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.