



water from rock

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- May 16, 2023

The Lord be with you.

Where do you live, where you live, where you call home is something that I want to think about with you for the next few moments. And when I ask you, where do you live? I'm not asking you what, what part of the country you live in or whether you live in an apartment, a house, a mobile home, a condominium, a tent. No, I have something much more foundational, much more essential when I ask you, where do you live? And I think that these next few moments that in thinking about where you live, where I live, that it can make all the difference in our lives. I want to read to you from the gospel of John chapter 15 where Jesus is using the wonderful imagery in which Jesus says I am the vine. You are the branches. And Jesus is talking about the shared life of the branches with the vine. How the branches find their nourishment in the vine, the branches find their fruitfulness in the vine. Who of course is our Lord Jesus Christ. Now with the context of the shared life of the vine and the branches in mine.

I'm going to read John chapter 15 verse nine as Jesus says, as the father has loved me. So I have loved you. No, I've just got to read that again as the father has loved me. So I have loved you abide in my love. I want to pick up on this phrase in which Jesus asks us abide in my love. The Greek word translated as a B as a B in my love. It's, it's a Greek word meow, which is M E N O. And right now I'm looking at m in a Greek dictionary which says that mal means to take up permanent residence means to remain in a place. It means to make it your home.

Now my wife Rita and I, we often go visit our children and grandchildren who live in the Dallas area. We go to visit them there, but we do not live there. We do not minnow it. We, we, we do not make it our permanent residence our home. Now here in the desert Southwest, we often hear the Spanish phrase Mi Casa es su casa. That is my house, is your house. And I think of that as I read the scripture and the gracious invitation of our Lord Jesus Christ in which he says, abide in my love, make my love for you, your permanent residence, make my love for you. Your home remain in place in my love for you. Pull up a chair, kick off your shoes, relax into my love.

I am helped by how the message translates this first as it says, make yourselves at home in my love. You see Jesus is saying that as the father has loved me now, I'm passing on that same love to you as a father has loved me. So I have loved you, make your home in my love, remain in my love, make your permanent residence in my love for you. Abide in my love. How might we do that today? We'll pause for a moment right now.

Breathe in the word, abide and let out in Jesus, love, abide in Jesus, love, abide in Jesus love the Apostle Paul. In his letter to the Ephesian Christians chapter three, he prays that we might be rooted and grounded in love and that we might know the love of Christ that surpasses



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knowledge. Many people have rooted and grounded their lives in guilt and fear and anger. This is a prayer to be rooted in the love of Jesus Christ for us. And he's praying that we might know something that can't be known that is to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.

Take a moment and let yourself float out into the bottomless sea of Jesus love for you. Let yourself be overwhelmed by Jesus love for you. Relax into his love knowing that you are precious to him. As Jesus says that he loves you with the love that the father has for him. So make your home in, make your permanent residence in Jesus love for you.

I began today asking where do you live? I pray that you might make your home in that you might remain in that you might make Jesus love for you. Your permanent residence, both now and forever. Amen.

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