

Day 2

Depending on God

Scripture Reading

John 15:1–11

Key Verse

"Apart from Me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

Today's Devotional

Few statements in Scripture are more direct than Jesus' words in John 15.

"Apart from Me you can do nothing."

Notice He did not say, "You can do a little."

He did not say, "You can do less."

He said, "Nothing."

The image Jesus uses is beautifully simple. A branch has no independent life. It bears fruit only because it remains connected to the vine. The life flowing through the vine becomes visible in the fruit produced by the branch.

So it is with every believer.

Our usefulness does not come from natural talent, years of experience, or personal determination. It comes from remaining closely connected to Christ.

Churches face the same temptation.

It is possible to become busy without being fruitful.

We can fill calendars while neglecting prayer.

We can build attendance without making disciples.

We can impress people while failing to glorify God.

Jesus calls us to something much deeper.

He calls us to abide.

To remain.

To depend.

As our church prepares for this new season, our greatest need is not more activity but deeper intimacy with Christ.

If we abide in Him, He will produce the fruit.

Love.

Joy.

Peace.

Patience.

Kindness.

Faithfulness.

And ultimately, transformed lives.

Perhaps the Lord is using these forty days to prune us before He bears even greater fruit.

Pruning is never comfortable.

It exposes areas where we have become self-sufficient.

It removes distractions.

It deepens dependence.

Yet Jesus assures us that the Father's pruning is always purposeful.

He cuts away only what keeps us from becoming more fruitful.

May we willingly submit to His loving hand.

Think About It

- Am I abiding in Christ daily?
 - Have I become busy without becoming spiritually fruitful?
 - What distractions might God be asking me to surrender?
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Today's Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Teach me to abide in You. Help me to seek Your presence before I seek productivity. Remove every attitude that keeps me from depending fully upon You.

May our church become known not for its programs but for its love for Christ.

Produce lasting spiritual fruit in every ministry.

Amen.

Today's Fast

Fast from social media or entertainment for the day.

Use those moments to read John 15 several times and pray for deeper intimacy with Christ.

Prayer Focus

Pray that every volunteer, teacher, musician, greeter, and leader would minister from a vibrant relationship with Christ.