



THE MAIN THING

• KEEPING JESUS AT THE CENTER •

The Main Thing

John 15:18-27

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Keep the main thing the main thing.”? This is an important thing to keep in mind with so many things in life. The challenging part with living this phrase out, is that we easily allow distractions to pull us away from the main thing. We do this in our own personal lives, but also in the church. When we don’t keep the main thing the main thing in the church, we allow outside voices and lower level issues divide us. Jesus must be the main thing, in each of our lives, but also in our church.

As our church begins a new season and transition, it’s important for us to be reminded of what this is really all about. Jesus set up the church for us and it’s ultimately about Him. When He’s the main thing, everything else falls into place. For the first few weeks we are going to look at John 15, and what this can look like in our own lives. Then, we will look at some writings in the early church, and what it can look like for us as a church community to “keep the main thing the main thing.”

Will you make it your ultimate ambition to become more like Jesus each day?

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Main Passage:

John 15:18-27

18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **19** If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **20** Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. **21** They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. **24** If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. **25** But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason. **26** When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. **27** And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Questions for Group:

- When you hear the phrase “becoming more like Jesus,” what pops into your head? How does that connect with the past few weeks’ ideas of bearing fruit and being on the True Vine?
- What is a situation where becoming more like Jesus put you at odds with the world?
- Why is the approval of other people so powerful in our lives? What are some ways we tend to seek it? What is Paul’s attitude in Galatians 1:10?
- How should you act towards people who don’t approve of you? Try to think to integrate some biblical examples into your answer.

- Whose approval are you most tempted to seek: friends, family, coworkers, social media, church community, or someone else? How can you seek God's approval above theirs?
- What does it mean that Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Helper/Counselor? What does that mean for us practically in light of the whole of John 15?
- So often we as believers long to see Jesus' face. Yet, Jesus said that "It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7)" Do you feel that is true? Why did Jesus want us to have the Holy Spirit with us?
- What are some ways that the Holy Spirit has helped you become more like Jesus?
- Are there any new areas that you are releasing to Jesus? Do you feel like you were able to release the areas you brought up last week?
- What are some areas where you are seeking to abide with Jesus? Were you able to abide with Jesus last week?
- Will you make it your ultimate ambition to become more like Jesus each day? What would that look like practically in your life this week?