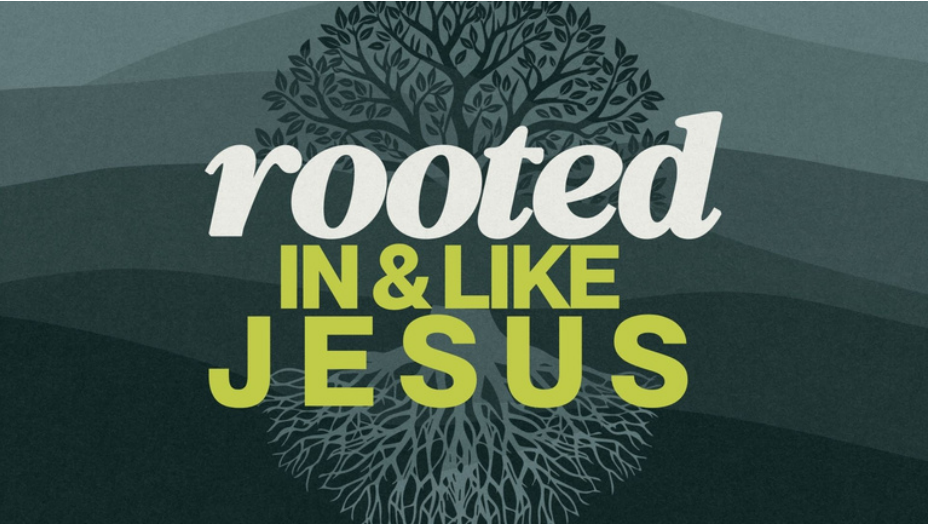




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The Father's Heart and the Father's Glory

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But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:31 NIV

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”

John 15:1-9 NIV

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

John 14:15-18 NIV

Father Absence Statistics – U. S. Census Bureau

- 73.1 million children under the age of 18 living in the U.S.
- 18.2 million children (1 in 4) live in a home without a biological, step, or adoptive father.
- 4x higher risk of poverty
- 2-3x more likely to experience educational and behavioral problems
- Make up 90% of the runaway or homeless children population
- Represent majority of youths in state-operated institutions/juvenile detention centers

Abandonment was never and is not the intent of the Father’s heart.

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”

John 15:18 NIV

“Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. 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.”

John 15:23-24 NIV

The world hates the Father, yet the Father loves the world (kosmos).

Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!”

John 13:37-38 NIV

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.”
John 14:1 NIV

Jesus was sent by the Father, to represent the heart of the Father,
to do the will of the Father in the world, and to return to the Father.

There is a shift coming, so make sure you are rooted in JESUS.

Plant your roots in Christ and let Him be the foundation for your life. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught. And be grateful.
Colossians 2:7 CEV

Question: “Do I understand the Father’s heart for me and am I living in such a way that the Father can receive His glory through me?”

1. The Father Prunes Us for His Glory

Question: “Am I willing to submit to God’s pruning process?”

The Father uses the pruning process to prepare us for the next season.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”
John 15:1-2 NIV

What we see as painful, the Father sees as purposeful.

“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”
John 15:3 NIV

2. The Goal of Remaining is the Father's Glory

“This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

John 15:8 NIV

The goal of remaining is the fruit that comes from your time with Jesus, and that fruit glorifies God.

Remaining in Jesus allows Him to produce fruit in you that glorifies the Father.

3. The Father's Heart is a Present Heart

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

John 14:16-17 NIV

The Father promises help and His lasting presence.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

John 14:18 NIV

“I will not leave you orphaned...”

John 14:18 NRSV

Jesus wants His followers (us) to understand the Father's heart is and will always be present with us.