

Clinging to Jesus

We are often thirsty, hungry, heartbroken, and feeling down in other ways. Jesus is the only one who can truly satisfy. As we gain an understanding of that, we feel the need to repent. He calls us to Him and we build a relationship with Him. We allow Him to be the vine and we begin to bear fruit and testify.

What satisfies? Worldly things alone equal emptiness. These include water, food, money, acceptance, popularity, fame, drugs, alcohol, things that are “of the flesh”. Isaiah 55 includes direction for people to come all, who are thirsty and come to the waters. Why do we continue to spend money on what does not satisfy? It is important for us to listen to God, every lasting covenant that has been made with Him. Jesus was a witness to the people, a ruler and commander, to summon the nations, even those who don't know him.

Living water means never having to thirst. In John 4:10-14, we read about the woman at the well to whom Jesus explains the meaning of living water. Similarly, the bread of life in John 6:35 means that a person who has received it will never hunger. It is the word of God, the Holy Spirit, that which satisfies spiritually.

The definition of repent is to turn away from sin and towards God. It is a verb, an action- feel or express regret or remorse about wrongdoing, sin. Examples in the Bible include God's message to the Israelites and John the Baptist's preparing the way. Jesus tells the people that unless you repent you will perish. Jesus made a way for repentance by the cross.

For us, the message is to turn away from sin. This could mean fasting during Lent- maybe even for the first time, and continuously surrendering to God. We turn toward Jesus by forming a relationship. It means to be open to the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. It means time with the Bible and time in prayer and meditation.

Testifying happens by bearing fruit. A fig tree was threatened with the consequence of being chopped down if it did not bear fruit within three years, even though fig trees often take 4-5 years to produce fruit. Like the fig tree, we need to be fertilized and we do that through a relationship with Jesus.

The inward fruit that we bear is our calmness, love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness, self-control, mindfulness, temperament. The outward fruit that we bear is the way we treat others: gentleness, goodness, kindness. It includes verbally testifying by telling our stories of Jesus' impact.

Only Jesus satisfies. We repent from that which separates us from God, we turn towards him through relationship, and we testify.