

Whoever finds his life will
lose it, and whoever loses
his life for my sake will
find it.
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

May 11, 2007

“Abide in me”—Jesus offers real rest—part IV

6:00 – 6:05	1) Coffee & Donuts 2) Opening Prayer
6:05 – 6:25	1) Abiding in Christ is a guarantee of freedom of our heavy burden of guilt because of our sin: rest from our “teeter-totter” existence; no longer throwing out fleeces. “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.” Mt 11:28-30 (The Message) 2) However, abiding in Christ is not a promise of a stress-free life Right now I am storm-tossed. And what am I going to say? ‘Father, get me out of this?’ No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, ‘Father, put your glory on display.’” A voice came out of the sky: “I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again.” Jn 12:27-28 (The Message) 3) Yet, we have access to God's power “Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better? Mt 7:7-11 (The Message) 4) And, it begins with dying to self. “Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal. If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me.” Jn 12:24-26

	<p>5) Dying to self—abiding in Christ—leads to real freedom, real power, and to real rest.</p> <p>a) Recall Adam’s silence in the Garden...if we are in Christ and he in us, we are <i>free to act</i> in the moment of confusion</p> <p>b) Illustration of acting in <i>God’s power</i></p> <p>c) Psalm 46: we are <i>free to rest</i>, God is in control</p>
--	--

6:25 – 7:00	<p>Interaction and prayer</p> <p>1) How did your dual challenge go this week? [1) 5 min reading the Bible, 5 min in meditation, 5 min in prayer; 2) praying with your family]?</p> <p>2) Jesus gives us a “heart test.” For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mk 6:21).</p> <p>a) What are your treasures?</p> <p>b) Where are they?</p> <p>3) Paul tells us to test ourselves (2Cor 13:5). How should we conduct such a test?</p> <p>4) Are you abiding in Jesus? What is the evidence (James 2:24)?</p> <p>5) What is preventing you from having a greater indwelling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18)?</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- The *Bible*
- McCall, Larry E. *Walking Like Jesus Did*
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of the Disciplines*
- Hybels, Bill. *Too Busy Not To Pray*
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*
- Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*
- Kaiser, Walter C., et al. *Hard Sayings of the Bible*
- Finney, Charles G. *Autobiography*