

PRACTISING THE WAY

1. BEING WITH JESUS

Sunday 13 September 2026 - All Saints, Moor Monkton

John 15:1-11 | Philippians 3:7-14 "Remain in me, as I also remain in you."

John 15:4

Before doing anything for Jesus, learn to remain with Jesus.

Jesus invites us not simply to believe things about him, but to **follow him** - to become his disciples, his apprentices. Over these next few weeks we are exploring three simple movements of discipleship:

Be with Jesus.

Become like Jesus.

Do what Jesus did.

And the order matters.

Before Jesus sends us out to bear fruit, he invites us to **remain in him**. A branch does not strain to produce fruit. Its task is to stay connected to the vine. The fruit comes because the life of the vine flows through the branch.

The visible life of a disciple grows from a hidden life with Jesus.

TAKE SOME TIME TO REFLECT

1. "Remain in me"

What do you think it might look like for you, in your ordinary everyday life, to remain with Jesus?

Where and when do you find it easiest to become aware of his presence?

2. What is forming you?

Every one of us is being formed by something. Think about the things that receive most of your attention - your phone, television, news, work, worries, relationships and the people around you.

What is currently having the greatest influence on the person you are becoming?

Is there anything you might need to give a little less attention to so that you can give more attention to Jesus?

3. "Apart from me you can do nothing"

Are there places where you have become busy **for Jesus**, but perhaps neglected simply being **with Jesus**? What might Jesus be inviting you to put down?

4. "I want to know Christ"

Paul had followed Jesus for years, yet his great desire remained:

"I want to know Christ."

Philippians 3:10

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus at the moment?

Close? Growing? Comfortable? Distant? Distracted? Hungry for more?

There is no right answer. Simply be honest with Jesus.

5. What might need to change? Is there one small adjustment you could make to your daily or weekly rhythm that would create more space for being with Jesus?

A PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Ten minutes with Jesus

Try setting aside **ten unhurried minutes each day** this week.

Find somewhere quiet. Put your phone aside. Open John 15:1-11.

Read a few verses **slowly**. You don't need to get through the whole passage.

When a word or phrase catches your attention, stop. Read it again.

Sit with it for a while. Ask Jesus what he might be saying to you through it.

Then simply pray: Jesus, I am here. Help me to remain in your love. Help me to recognise your presence with me today. Form your life in me.

Amen.

Then spend a little time in silence.

You don't have to achieve anything.

Just be with Jesus.

NEED SOME HELP FINDING A RHYTHM?

Following Jesus is not about adding another burden to an already busy life. It is about learning to **arrange our lives around the presence of Jesus.**



Join us for Morning Prayer

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 9.00am on Zoom

We spend around 40 minutes worshipping, praying, reading Scripture and asking God's blessing on our community of Rural Ainsty and beyond.

Why not make Morning Prayer part of your rhythm of being with Jesus?

Meeting ID: 831 1491 8802

Passcode: EK74jA

Everyone is welcome.

Or try Lectio 365

Lectio 365 is a free daily devotional app from 24-7 Prayer.

It provides a simple guided rhythm of Scripture, reflection and prayer each morning and evening. It is particularly helpful if you want to spend time with Jesus regularly but aren't quite sure where to begin.

[Find out more and download Lectio 365](#)

Perhaps try it each day this week and allow it to become part of your rhythm of **being with Jesus**.

A QUESTION TO CARRY INTO THE WEEK

What might happen if, before asking what Jesus wants me to do, I learned simply to be with him?

Remember: You cannot become like someone you are never with. Be with Jesus.

Become like Jesus. Do what Jesus did.

But this week, begin here:

"Remain in me."

Prayer

**Jesus, teach me to remain in you.
In the busyness and distractions of my life,
help me to recognise your presence.**

**Give me a hunger to know you,
not simply to know about you.**

**As I spend time with you,
shape my heart, my thoughts and my desires,
so that your life may bear fruit in mine.**

**Teach me to be with you,
to become like you,
and, from that place,
to do what you did.**

Amen.