

Abide

Week 2: Part II

1. Introduction

- Personal reflections on Christmas and the desire to recover the heart of Christmas.
- Introduction of the story of Wallace Perling and its significance.

2. The Story of Wally

- Wally's character and role in the Christmas pageant.
- The pivotal moment when Wally, as the innkeeper, offers his room to Joseph and Mary.
- The impact of Wally's actions on the audience and the essence of Christmas.

3. Experiencing Jesus

- The call to experience Jesus as Wally did.
- The importance of recognizing opportunities to "mess up" our lives by beholding Jesus.

4. Discipleship Stories

- ****Story of Dante****
- The journey of friendship and discipleship over ten years.
- The transformation in Dante's life and his role in discipleship.
- ****Story of David****
- David's identity as a provider and refuge.
- The importance of receiving from Jesus to sustain our identities.

5. God's Presence Through History

- Overview of God's relationship with humanity: from being for us, to being with us, to being one of us.
- The significance of Jesus coming to be "one of" with us.

6. The Syrophoenician Woman

- Examination of Jesus' interaction with the Canaanite woman and the lessons learned about faith and identity.
- The contrast between the disciples' attitudes and the woman's faith.

7. The Disciples' Transformation

- The shift from being with Jesus to being filled with the Holy Spirit after His ascension.
- The empowerment of the disciples to perform miracles and spread the Gospel.

8. Invitation to Receive

- Encouragement to ask Jesus what He is inviting us into this year.
- The importance of being open to God's desires for our lives.

9. Conclusion

- A prayer for spiritual hunger and the desire to experience God's presence in our lives.
- Final thoughts on the ongoing invitation to live in relationship with Jesus.