



STAYING CLOSE

KEY SCRIPTURES: John 15:1-8

The scripture I used today for my daily scripture ministry was taken from John. It was John 15:5. *"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."* And I concentrated on the word apart, which means to be separate, but it also means to be without any.

When I shared it on my social media page, I made the comment that I don't want to be apart from my Jesus. And I don't. I've been there before. I don't want to be without Him. I want to be following so close to Him that if He were to stop walking, I would bump in to Him. But I do end up that way sometimes, apart from Him. And it's a lonely, empty place to be.

I get distracted with worry. I know that the Christian's default is supposed to be faith, but sometimes all the connections don't get made and worry creeps in. Or fear. Or confusion. The budget screams, "Where are you going to get the money?" The schedule screams, "Where are you going to get the time?" The chores scream, "Where are you going to get the energy?" And we reply, "I have no idea."

Staying close. I like to think of the child who is not yet old enough to answer for himself, or maybe he's old enough but too shy. An adult asks him a question, and he immediately defers to Mom or Dad. He shoots that look that says, "I don't want to answer. You answer," and Mom or Dad takes over the conversation. The child breathes a sigh of relief, and the day is saved.

But what if Mom or Dad weren't around? The child would be on his own if he wasn't close enough to them.

Staying close. When the budgets and the chores and the schedules scream, I want to be close enough to Jesus to shoot Him that glance of desperation. I want to be close enough that He steps in and answers, and I breathe a sigh of relief.

There is no other place that I would rather be than close to Jesus. I will remain. I will trust.

And I will be safe.

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"...so we can know our value, live with purpose, and make a difference...**In that order.**"