



## Chosen for the Surge

John 15:16

August 17, 2020

As Jesus and His disciples walked from their last Passover feast together through the gates of Jerusalem and on toward the garden of Gethsemane in the night, Jesus spoke the words from John 15. He said, **You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.** (John 15:16)

The original Greek word for *appoint* is *tith'emi* meaning *to place*. Jesus **chose** you and **placed** you. It is *His* choosing, *His* placing, and *His* purpose.

The Lord gives each one of us gifts to impact this time in which He has placed us. The only way we will know our place and be prepared for the uncertainty that lies ahead is by abiding in Him, because He is the Only One Who knows how events will unfold. We plan, but we plan by listening to His lead.

I read a story years ago about a woman whose small boat was caught in the ocean currents off the Philippine coast. No matter how hard she rowed, the ocean surges, like huge underground mammoths, swelled and heaved her in their own direction, until at last some fishermen rescued her.

As I look back on my life, I see that it has moved with the kind, vast ocean surge of God's loving purpose. In the beginning of my new life with Jesus 40 years ago, I had dreams to be a missionary in Nepal or start an orphanage overseas. None of these things happened. It is not that these plans would not still happen, but it seems I am in a very different place than my former dreams.

So, how did I end up where I am now teaching the Bible using art? My only answer – I abided in Jesus. And He placed me in the ocean surges of *His* purpose. I never could have imagined His appointment ahead of time. I see now that every job, boring or grand, every boss, good or bad, singleness until I was 45, and every other placement, whether He asked me to stay or leave, was His appointment preparing and moving me deeper into His purposes.

As we abide, He gives us the desires of *His* heart and moves us along within *His* vast plan. I wrote the Scripture Study called *Abiding Tools* for those who ask, "How do I abide?"

Friends, we did not choose Jesus, He **chose** us and **appointed** us that we should **go** and bear fruit that remains. In Matthew 28:18-20, we see where we are to go. Jesus said to His disciples, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go** and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age."

He **chose** you and **placed** you to **go** bear the fruit of making disciples **that whatever you ask of the Father in His name, He may give to you.** Just ask. You and your Father are one. His desires are your desires. As you abide together, your request will flow from His heart.

Father, I abide in Your love as You take me further into Your purposes of light!