



# **I AM Statements of Jesus**

**I Am the True Vine – John 15:1-17**

**Vertical Life Church**

# Introduction

- 7<sup>th</sup> and last I AM statement
- Told only to disciples
- Unlike 6<sup>th</sup> I AM statement, this takes place while walking to Gethsemane
- Disciples undoubtedly walked close behind Jesus in order to hear this teaching.
- Significant because the teaching is about abiding

# The Gan: Living Under the Vine

- God had promised Israel peace and safety if they would follow Him (1 Kings 4:25)
- To understand living under the vine we must understand living in the garden
- Man's idyllic beginning was in a garden (Gen 2:15)
- Hebrew for *garden* is *gan*. A protected garden
- Even after Israel fell, God promised a return to the gan through Jesus, the Branch (Zech 3:8-10; Mic 4:4)

# In Tanakh Israel Was the Vine

- Israel depicted as 3 plants in scripture (Jer 2:21)
- When things were bad, Israel lamented w this image (Psa 80)
  - God had caused them to prosper
  - Vine had been protected by walls in the gan (v12)
  - Plea is for God to return and protect the vine (14-15)
- But Israel didn't turn. So the image is explained in Isa 5:1-7
  - Choicest vines (2); protection of the gan w/ walls
  - Choice vine is *soreq*; sour grape is *be-u-sim*
  - So God destroys the vineyard – removes its protection

# Jesus is the True Vine

- Israel wanted to picture themselves as in Psa 80
- God saw them as in Isa 5
- Jesus is the True Vine (as opposed to Israel) (Joh 15:1)
- Father is the vine dresser (as in Isa and Jer)
- Jesus had just paraphrased Isa 5 in answering Priests (Mat 21:33-46)

# Jesus is the True Vine

- Now the vine is perfect, so God no longer needs to remove the vine; just the unproductive branches
- V2 is a stern warning. Unproductive branches will be removed and burned as in Psa 80,
- Branches that bear fruit are pruned (cleaned)
- We become clean by believing the word (3, 7)
- We become fruitful by *abiding* in Jesus
- This means living in the *gan* (Rom 8:33-39)

# Abiding in Jesus

- It means working in KOG under the power that Jesus provides (4-5)
- John summarizes abiding in 1 John 2:6
- Paul gives good list of what this looks like in 1 Thes 5:15-23
  - We seek after good for each other v15
  - We do that by rejoicing always v16
  - We do that by praying without ceasing v17
  - We do that by being thankful v18
  - We do that by not quenching the Spirit v19
  - We do not despise the Word (v20). How do we do that? (Deu 6:6-7)
  - We examine everything by the Word v21
  - We abstain from all forms of evil

# Abiding in Jesus

- By abiding and bearing fruit, we glorify God (15:8)
- Jesus gives 2 ways we abide:
- Keeping His commandments (v10)
- Loving one another (v12)