

7 “I Am” sayings of Jesus”

1. “I am the the bread of life...” - John 6
2. “I am the light of the world...” - John 8 & 9
3. “I am the door...” - John 10
4. “I am the good shepherd...” - John 10
5. “I am the resurrection and the life...” - John 11
6. “I am the way, truth, and life...” - John 14
7. “I am the true vine...” - John 15

Who is Jesus? - bread to feed upon, the light to follow, the door to enter, the shepherd to guide, the resurrection to wait upon, the way to live, the vine to abide within.

Last Week:

- Jesus is the bread of life - He supplies all we need
- Jesus is the light of the world - He shows us the work of God in the world
- Jesus is the door - He keeps us safe and secure
- Jesus is the good shepherd - He protects and fights for us
- Jesus is the resurrection and the life - He is our eternal hope
- Jesus is the way, truth, & life - He is the only way to heaven
- Jesus is the true vine - He the is our sustainer

I am The True Vine....

[1] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2] Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [3] Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. [9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

[12] “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15] No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. [17] These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

(John 15:1-17)

Jesus The True Vine

Talking about discipleship and spiritual discipline

1. The vine is the source of fruit (v. 1-4)

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- Pruning = discipline and trials
 - Cutting a diamond analogy
- Take away - removing professing Christians who are not really saved (Judas)

2. Apart from the vine the branch withers (v. 5-8)

[5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

- Apart from Jesus you can do nothing
- Father is glorified by the production of fruit
 - to bear fruit must abide in Jesus and His word must abide in you

3. Follow Jesus' example - Love & Obey (v. 9-11)

[9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

- Jesus follows the example of the Father
- He tells His followers to do as he does, as he does what the Father does
 - The father loves Jesus, Jesus loves his disciples, Disciples love one another
 - Keep his commandments to abide in Jesus' love
 - Love is unconditional by being disobedient we remove ourselves from relationship with Jesus
- By doing as he does we get "full joy" in life

4. Jesus Calls You Friend (v. 12-17)

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- Obey Jesus by loving one another
- No longer servant but friend
 - frames Jesus' entire relationship with you
- Jesus chose you with a purpose
 - the purpose is to love others as He has
 - only possible by abiding in Him

Abide in the Vine

1. Abide in Jesus

- Effortless resting in the Lord, confident in relationship between the vine and the branches

2. Show off Your Fruit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23)

- Fruit = Godly behavior and discipleship
- Only true believers produce fruit
 - works do not equal salvation, salvation equals works

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

(Galatians 5:24-26)

3. Love One Another

- Love is central to bearing fruit

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

(1 John 4:16)

- Love others like Jesus loves you, very simple yet very difficult

4. Abiding, fruit, & love are the keys to answered prayer

- God is not conditional towards you nor does he require perfection
- God does respond as we respond to Him
 - Intentionally being disobedient to these things causes our relationship with Him to suffer
 - Jesus is more interested in His relationship with you and the Fathers glory than answering prayers
 - ::Last week:: Jesus answers prayer to bring God glory, God gets no glory by answering requests of unloving disobedient people

Discussion Questions

- Jesus says that branches that do not bear fruit he takes away. What do you think he means by this, where do they go?
- Jesus said that branches that bear fruit are pruned, what does this look like for believers today?
- In the scripture we looked at Jesus said *"for apart from me you can do nothing."* Why do you think he says this at this time?
- The scriptures we looked at talk about Jesus' true followers bearing fruit, what do you think this look like for believers today?
- How would you know if someone is a follower of Jesus?
- Why do you think God is glorified by Jesus' followers bear fruit?
- What is the connection between obedience to God's commandments and love?
- How does obedience to God bring us joy?
- Jesus said that the greatest act of love is to lay down your life for you friends, do you agree or disagree with Him?
- What is the significance of Jesus calling us His friend?
- In your own context, what does it look like for you to abide in Jesus?