

I Am the True Vine

John 15:1-11

Introduction:

1. Series Intro: The 7 “I Am” statements of Jesus are statements made by Jesus that point directly to His character and to what He came to earth to do.
2. **John 15:1-11** Commentary – Jesus being the true vine in that He is doing what we could not do for ourselves.
 - **Up to this point, the disciples felt the vine was Israel** – In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was referred to as the vine on several occasions. In other words, Jesus is saying that the path to God is not becoming Jewish or be a part of Israel. He is the vine – signifying that He is the only way to the Father.
 - **The word “abide” comes from the Greek word Meno meaning “to make your home in.”** In other words, Jesus is saying “dwell in me.” Let’s live together. When you make your home in His love (you saturate your life with it), fruit springs up like roses on a rosebush.
 - **You must be in Jesus to abide in Him.** In other words, trying to abide will leave you frustrated and lost if you have not accepted Him as the only way for you to be reconciled to the Father.
3. In this passage, Jesus is about to face death. He just predicted Judas betrayal and Peter’s denial. He was about to ascend, and now He is found leaving the

upper room and having this conversation with His apostles. In this “I Am” statement, He gives the disciples the secret to life. The secret to a fruitful life.

4. Big Idea - **The secret to living a life that counts is found in abiding in Jesus.**
5. When you abide, here are the results of a life that abides with Him:
 - I. **Your life will possess spiritual fruit - V. 1-6**
 1. A branch connected to the vine will bear fruit.
 2. **Galatians 5:22-23** says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
 3. If you are abiding in Him, your life will possess fruit like this.
 4. In other words, you will be a person of character. What Jesus is telling the disciples is that the more that they abide in Jesus, the more character that they will possess.
 5. **Illustration:** Our kids emulate us because they are our kids.
 6. **Spiritual character is an outward reflection of an inward relationship with Him.**
 7. **Illustration:** Joseph
 8. **Illustration:** Gift Card lost at Wal Mart and someone turned it in. We are more shocked by an act of character than we are a lack of character.
 9. The true test of a person’s character is how they respond during adversity or temptation.

10. One writer said that talent may get you to the top, but character will keep you at the top.

II. **Your life will experience answered prayers - V. 7**

1. This verse has confused many. Many look at this verse and get a false hope from the verse. This verse is not suggesting that you get whatever you want.
2. The challenge that Jesus is making to the disciples is that when you abide in Him, you spend time in His word. The Word reveals shortcomings, pride, idolatry, and anything that is not of the Word. That is the pruning/purging work of the Lord. Then, we pray prayers up to Him. Prayers that are shaped, guided, and directed from the Word of God. God then hears and answers our prayers because they are in obedience to the Word of God.
3. In other words, your prayers become Biblical prayers and not selfish prayers. His desires become your desires.
4. **Psalms 37:4 - "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."**
5. **I John 5:14 - "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us."**
6. If you delight in Him, your desires will be His desires.

7. **We focus too much on the promise rather than the practice.**

III. **Your life will be lived for the glory of God - V. 8**

1. We were created to give God glory. Jesus is saying that He is glorified when we abide deeper in Him.
2. **I Corinthians 10:31** says, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
3. Living for the glory of God is found when you place your focus off of yourself and on to Him. It is when you care more about His name getting known to the nations than your name getting known to anyone.
4. Abiding in Him leads to a life lived for His glory.

Conclusion:

1. **Illus:** Me being scared to be away from home growing up
2. You see the fruitful life is not found in making money, building a name for yourself, getting a good job, or accumulating a lot of toys. A fruitful life (life more abundantly) is only found in abiding/dwelling in the vine - Jesus.
3. Pray and let the Spirit lead.