
I AM
THE TRUE VINE

DISCIPLES' QUESTIONS:

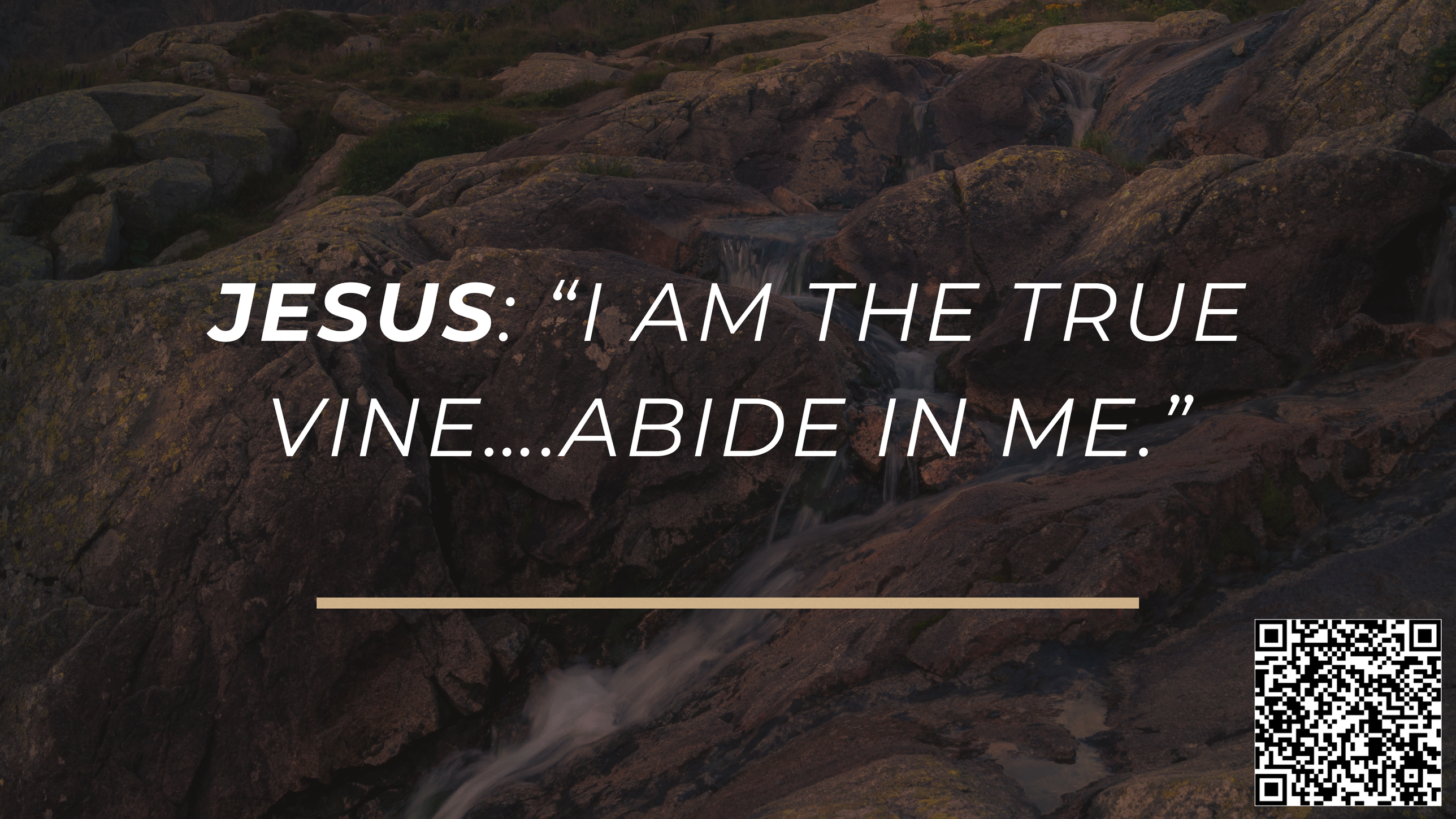
PETER: "WHERE ARE YOU GOING?" (JOHN 13:36)
JESUS: "WHERE I AM GOING, YOU CANNOT FOLLOW ME NOW, BUT YOU WILL FOLLOW AFTERWARD."

THOMAS: "LORD, WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING. HOW CAN WE KNOW THE WAY?" (JOHN 14:5)
JESUS: "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE."

DISCIPLES' QUESTIONS:

PHILLIP: "LORD, SHOW US THE FATHER..." (JOHN 14:)
JESUS: "WHOEVER HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE FATHER."

JUDAS (NOT ISCARIOT): "HOW IS IT THAT YOU SHOW YOURSELF TO US, BUT NOT THE WORLD?" (JOHN 14:22)
JESUS: "IF ANYONE LOVES ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORD, AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME TO HIM AND MAKE OUR HOME WITH HIM."


JESUS: "I AM THE TRUE VINE....ABIDE IN ME."

“I am the true Vine..”

“You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.”
Psalm 80:8

“For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!” **Isaiah 5:7**

“I am the true Vine..”

Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?

Jeremiah 2:21

Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars. Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars and destroy their pillars.

Hosea 10:1

“I am the true Vine..”

...Where people have failed,
I have succeeded.



“I am the true Vine..”

….**True** life is not found in anything other than **belonging** to Christ and **remaining** in Him.

CENTRAL QUESTION:

If Jesus is the true Vine, what kind of life does He offer to those who abide in Him?

KEY TRUTH:

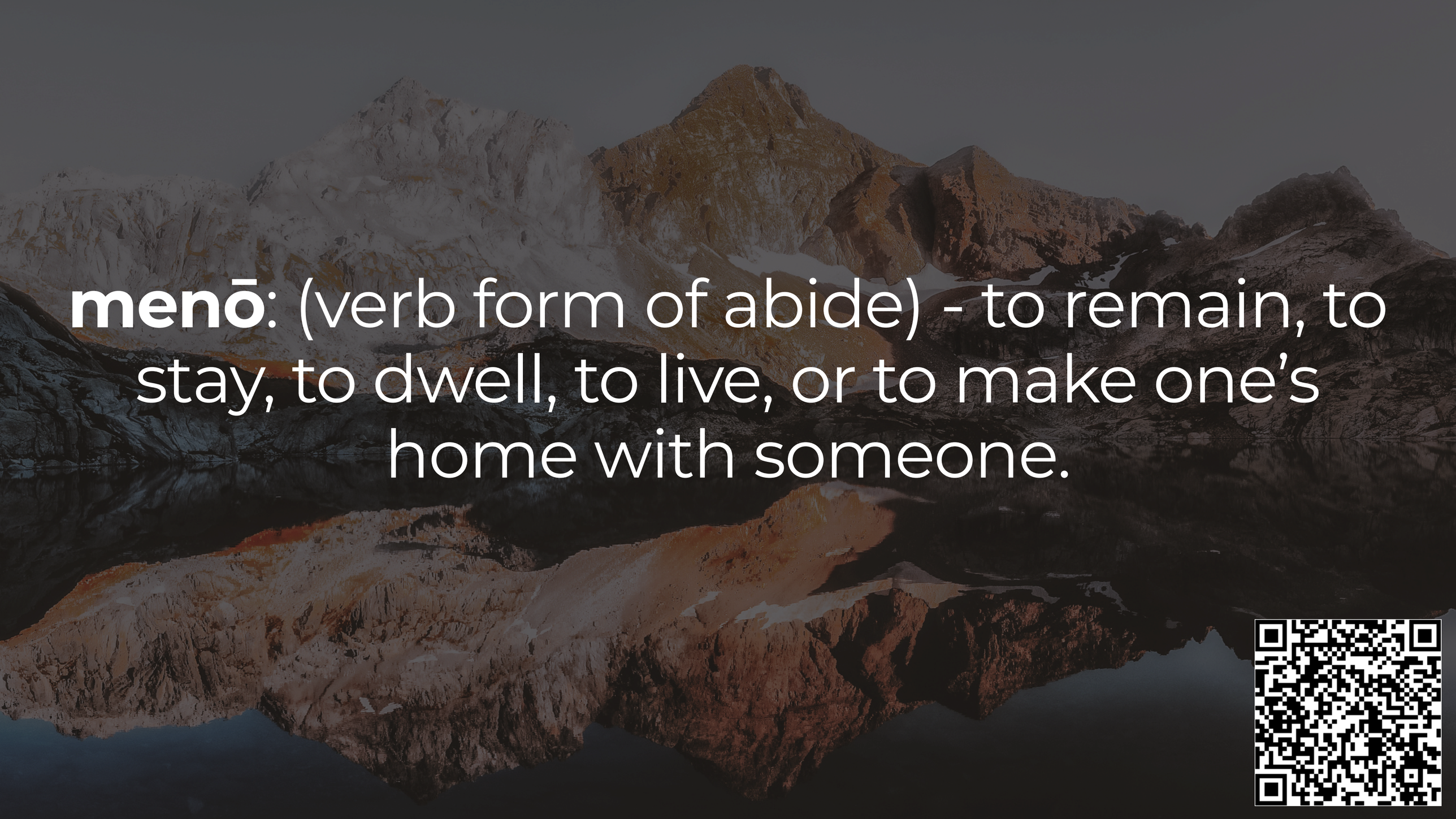
The fruit of the Christian life doesn’t grow from our striving. It only grows from our abiding in Christ.

REALITY #1

When we abide in Christ, we receive the life we could never produce on our own.

“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 abidein me.

John 15:4


menō: (verb form of abide) - to remain, to stay, to dwell, to live, or to make one’s home with someone.

rooms (noun) = monē

“In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”

John 14:2



David's prayers to dwell with the Lord...

O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
Psalm 15:1

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall, dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Psalm 23:6

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
Psalm 27:4-5

David's prayers to dwell with the Lord...

Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house the holiness of your temple!
Psalm 65:4

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall, dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Psalm 23:6

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
Psalm 84: 1-2

David's prayers to dwell with the Lord...

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!
Psalm 84:4

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
Psalm 84:10

Don’t wait until heaven to begin making your home with Jesus...

Because abiding isn’t about occasionally visiting Jesus...

**It’s about making Him the place where your heart and everythingabout you lives.*

“Don’t just visit Me. Abide in Me.”



“Don’t just visit Me. Abide in Me.”

“Move in.”



“Don’t just visit Me. Abide in Me.”

“Move in.” *“Unpack your bags.”*



“Don’t just visit Me. Abide in Me.”

“Move in.” *“Unpack your bags.”*

“Make your home here…in Me.”



*Jesus desires our unbroken dependence on Him:

"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."

John 15:5

JUDAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED JESUS TOO.

HE WALKED BESIDE CHRIST, BUT HE NEVER SURRENDER HIS HEART TO HIM.

PROXIMITY TO JESUS IS NOT THE SAME AS ABIDING IN JESUS.

Do I look like a Christian?



~~*Do I look like a Christian?*~~

Deeper Question:

Am I truly drawing my life from Jesus, or am I only trying to look alive apart from Him?



2 Corinthians 13:5

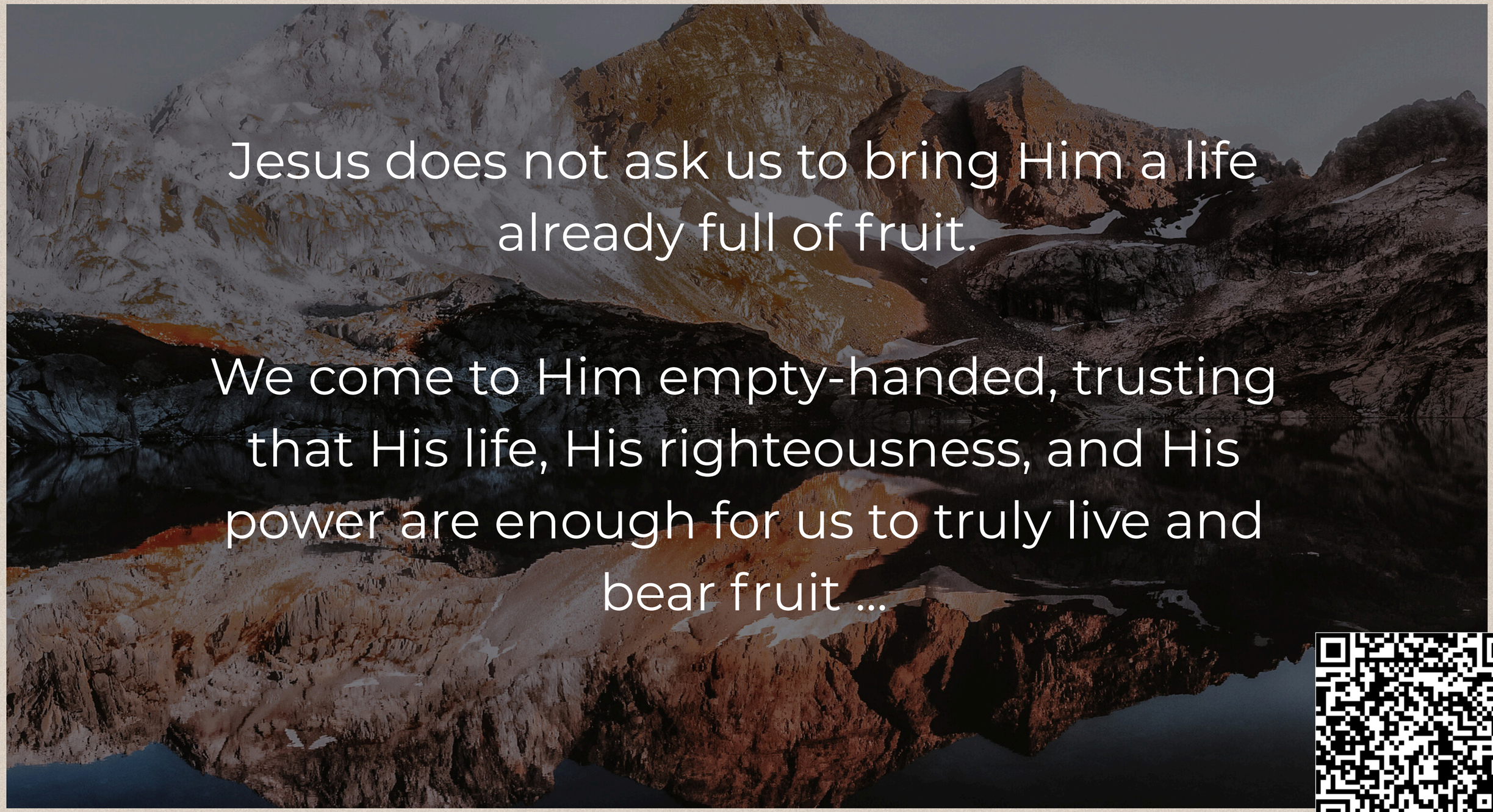
Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?

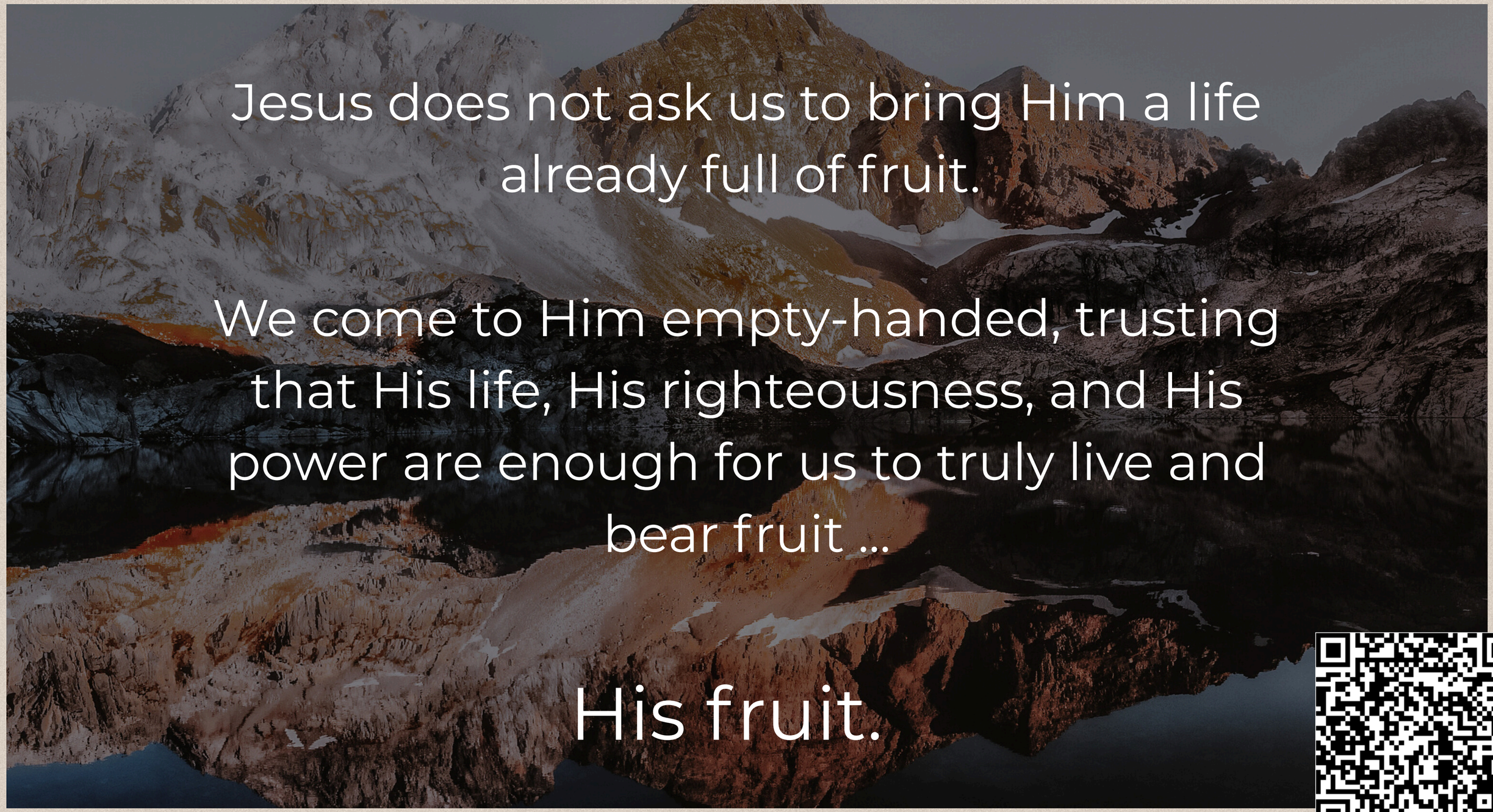


Abiding in Christ is not a reward for people who have finally made themselves good enough.

It's actually the only hope for people who know they never will be.




Jesus does not ask us to bring Him a life already full of fruit.
We come to Him empty-handed, trusting that His life, His righteousness, and His power are enough for us to truly live and bear fruit ...


Jesus does not ask us to bring Him a life already full of fruit.
We come to Him empty-handed, trusting that His life, His righteousness, and His power are enough for us to truly live and bear fruit ...
His fruit.




Abide!
Stay on the ark!

Our weakness doesn’t disqualify us from abiding in Christ, it is actually a gift that reveals how desperately we need to remain in Him.



Joni Eareckson Tada

REALITY #2

When we abide in Christ, the Father cultivates what Christ is producing in us.

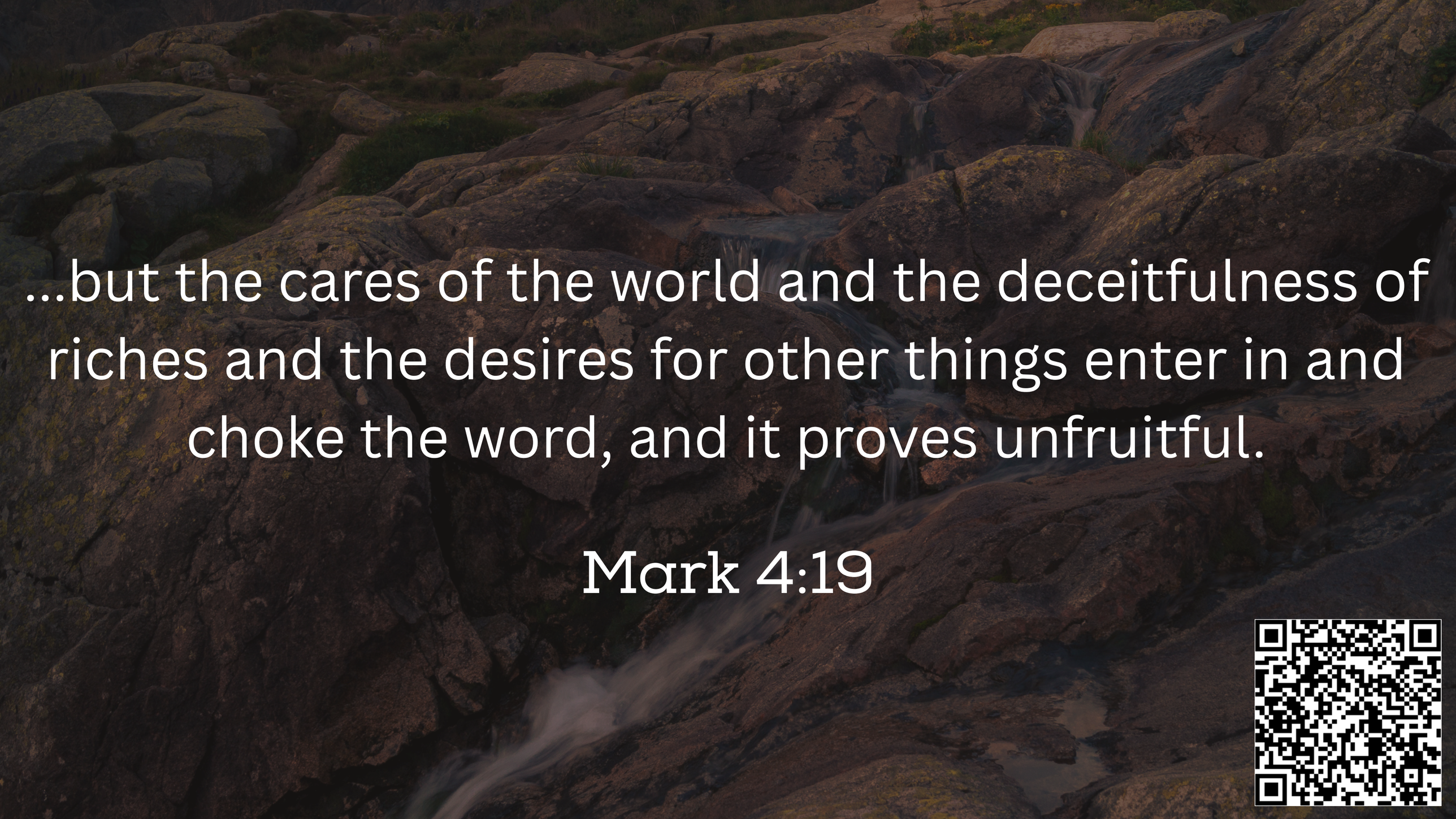
“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

John 15:1-2

Two types of branches:
-Pepetually bears no fruit.

Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, *and do many mighty works in your name?’* [23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

Matthew 7:21-23


...but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
Mark 4:19

So ask yourself:

When I feel empty, where do I go to be filled?

When I feel afraid, what must I control to feel secure?

When I feel insignificant, whose approval do I need to feel valuable?

Two types of branches:

-Perpetually bears no fruit.

-Bears fruit...but is pruned

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.

Hebrews 12:6

“God, why are you taking this away?

The pruning shears are not evidence of His absence or that he is angry at you; but they are evidence of the attention and love, and cultivation of a loving father who is close to you.

REALITY #3

When we abide in Christ, we experience the privileges of remaining in Him.

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When we abide in Christ, we experience the privileges of remaining in Him.

We experience confidence in prayer.



If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:7



And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

1 John 5:14



REALITY #3

When we abide in Christ, we experience the privileges of remaining in Him.

We experience confidence in prayer.

We are invited to experience the love the Father has for the Son.



As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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.

John 15:9-10

Obedience is not how we persuade Jesus to love us.

We do not obey so that we may become loved; we obey *because, in Christ, we already are*.

REALITY #3

When we abide in Christ, we experience the privileges of remaining in Him.

We experience confidence in prayer.

We are invited to experience the love the Father has for the Son.

We are invited to experience the fullness of Christ's own joy.

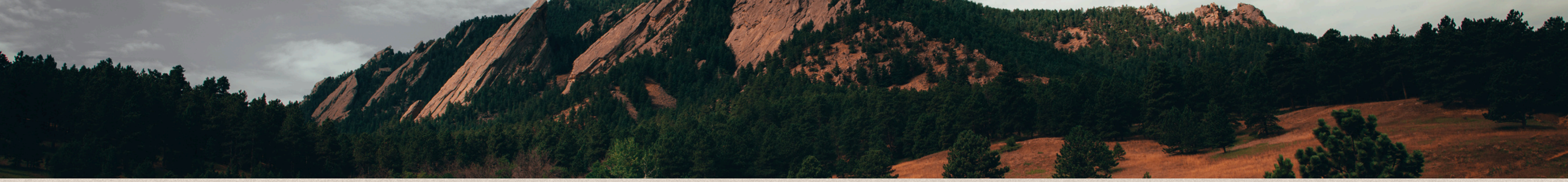
Christian joy is deeper than happiness.

Happiness rises and falls with what happens around us; the joy of Christ rests in the unchanging reality of who holds us.

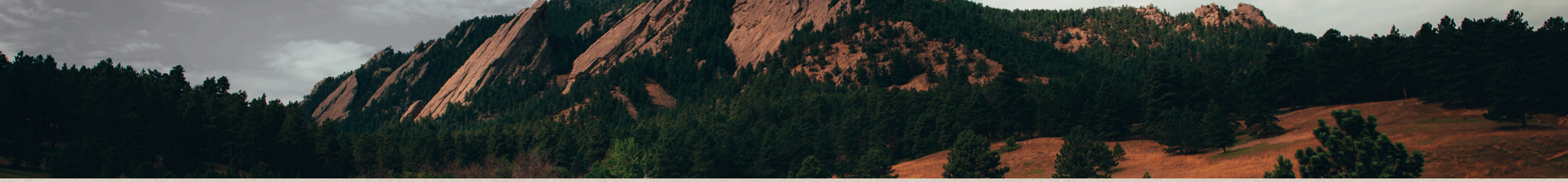
Come to Christ.

Remain in His love.

Let His words make their home in you.



“AM I TRYING HARD ENOUGH TO BEAR FRUIT?”



“AM I TRYING HARD ENOUGH TO BEAR FRUIT?

“Am I abiding in the One who alone can produce it?”

Reflection Questions

1. Am I drawing my identify and security from Christ, or from success, approval, comfort, control, or something else?

2. What fruit is that source producing in me? Is it making me more loving, joyful, patient, and gracious, or more anxious, critical, or harsh?

3. For the believer, what may be attempting to distract you from continuing to abide in Christ? What may God be pruning in you right now? Are you resisting or asking God what he desires to grow in you?

4. For the unbeliever, will you continue to attempt to manufacture a life only Christ can give? Or will you come, submit, and abide and experience true life?