

April 28, 2019

“I AM...”

“All That God Promises to Be for You!”

“God replied to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel. I AM has sent Me to you.’” Exodus 3:14

“I AM the Vine”

“God is Your Connection to Relationships”

“Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

A. “I AM the Vine”...

“I am the true Grapevine, and my Father is the Gardener... you are the branches.” John 15:1, 5b

1. Jesus used familiar circumstances to teach His “I AM” passages.
 - a. “I AM the Bread of Life” when feeding the 5,000
 - b. “I AM the Light” at the Festival of Lights
 - c. “I AM the Resurrection and the Life” at the death of Lazarus
 - d. “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life” when telling the disciples He was going to leave them
 - e. “I AM the Vine” by the significance of the grapes and the vineyard
2. In this metaphor, God is the Gardener.
3. Jesus is the Grapevine.
4. We, as believers, are the branches.

B. The significance of grapes...

1. Israel was referred to as a grapevine.

“You transplanted a vine from Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it.” Psalm 80:7

2. Herod’s temple had a magnificent cluster of grapes hanging around the outside of the temple. One could pay a large sum to add a grape to the cluster in honor of someone. The Jews took pride in this and saw it as a symbol of their nation.

3. Grapes are the most mentioned fruit in the Bible.

“But I was the one who planted you, choosing a vine of the purest stock—the very best. How did you grow into this corrupt wild vine?” Jeremiah 2:21

4. Multiple times, Jesus compared our lives to the fruit produced.

“You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit.” Matthew 7:16-18

“A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad.” Matthew 12:33

“I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit.” Matthew 21:43

C. Pruning comes to all of us...

“He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.” John 15:2

1. Poor pruning or a lack of pruning leads to low yield and poor fruit quality.
2. The best time to prune is in the dormancy stage of winter. Pruning hard produces the best fruit.
3. The most fruitful branches are those exposed to the most light.

4. The new growth produces and the branch nearest the trunk or root produces the best fruit.

D. Remaining in the Vine produces fruit...

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

1. Remaining in the Vine is our source of nourishment that will produce much fruit.

“Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.” John 15:5b

2. Remaining in the Vine sees answers to prayer.

“But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” John 15:7

3. Remaining in the Vine produces much fruit, shows our relationship to one another, and brings glory to the Father.

“When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father.” John 15:8

4. Remaining in the Vine means obedience to His commandments.

“When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love, just as I obey My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.” John 15:10

5. Remaining in the Vine brings an overflowing joy.

“I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!” John 15:11

E. When we remain in the Vine, we make great connections...

“This is My commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are My friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are My friends, since I have told you everything the Father told Me. You didn’t choose Me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using My Name. This is My command: Love each other.” John 15:12-17

1. When we remain, we have a new Father.
2. When we remain, we have a new Brother.
3. When we remain, we have a new family.
4. And it is all discovered as you love one another.

“I have loved you even as the Father has loved Me. Remain in My love.” John 15:9

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