**7 I AM Statements of Jesus**

**I AM The Vine (John 15:1-17)**

**Recap:**

* **I AM The Bread of Life (John 6:22-59)**
* **I AM The Light of the World (John 8:12-30)**
* **I AM The Door/Gate (John 10:1-10)**
* **I AM The Good Shepherd (John 10:11-20)**
  + **Application**
    - **Christ wants his People to be His Hands and Feet**
    - **Be United-strongly united loving church family.**
    - **Share’s Christ’s Love**
    - **You have been chosen to work in His Spirit**
    - **Deepen your relationship with God.**

**Introduction:**

* **John 15:1-11**
* **Upper Room Thursday Night before the cross**
* **Confusion in the Room**
  + **John 13:3-17 (Washing the Disciples Feet)**
  + **Jesus predicts his betrayal and dismisses Judas from the room (John 13:27)**
  + **Jesus telling the disciples he was going away. (John 13:33)**
  + **Jesus Predicting Peter’s Denial (John 13:38)**
  + **John 14:1: Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.**
    - **Trust me for Today**
    - **Trust me for Tomorrow.**
    - **Trust me Exclusively.**
  + **So, what can we learn from Jesus Statement “I AM The Vine?”**

1. **The Identity of the Vine (v. 1)**
   1. **True-alethinus-Pefect, Real, Genuine**
   2. **Jesus as the “true vine” signifies a source of life and connection.**
   3. **The Father as the gardener emphasizes divine care and purposeful pruning.**
   4. **Beware of the false sources of fulfillment or sustenance.**
2. **The Role of the Branches (v. 5a)**
   1. **Our Connection to Christ determines fruitfulness.**
   2. **Branches apart from the vine cannot survive or bear fruit.**
   3. **We must abide in Christ through:**
      1. **Prayer**
      2. **Obedience**
      3. **Reading and Meditating on His Word**
3. **The Process of Pruning (v. 2b)**
   1. **God prunes to discipline and for us to grow in the faith.**
   2. **Temporary pain leads to greater fruitfulness and maturity.**
   3. **Examples:**
      1. **Removal of Distractions,**
      2. **Trials Refining Character**
4. **The Purpose of Fruitfulness (v. 8a)**
   1. **Fruit symbolizes character (Galatians 5:22-23) and good works.**
   2. **Fruitfulness glorifies God and points others to Him.**
   3. **Abiding results in a life of purpose, joy, and impact**
5. **The Waring of Disconnection (6a)**
   1. **A sober reminder of spiritual disconnection**
   2. **Encouragement to remain steadfast in Christ to avoid spiritual dryness.**

**Application:**

1. **Abide in Jesus**
   1. **Remain or Abide-Meno “to continue to be present” or to sojourn or tarry.”**
   2. **Where do we plant our lives?** 
      1. **In the World**
      2. **In Jesus**
2. **Jesus points to two kinds of Branches**
   1. **A Branch that Bears Fruit**
   2. **A Branch that does not Bear Fruit**
3. **Not everyone who claims to be connected to Jesus is a Genuine Believer**
   1. **John 13:1-5, 27**
   2. **Jesus needed to explain the contrast between the eleven who were still in the room and Judas Iscariot.**
4. **There are two kinds of fruit.**
   1. **Attitude Fruit**
   2. **Action Fruit**
   3. **It is Attitude Fruit that produces Action Fruit. Because if you have Action Fruit without Attitude Fruit, you have hypocrisy, legalism, “works” mentality about your relationship with God. And God is going to reject all of that.**

**Conclusion:**

* **How connected are you to Christ?**
* **When need to abide in Christ and we can if we are practicing spiritual disciplines.**