

Series: Discipleship

Title: The Connected Disciple



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“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 continues to bear fruit, He [repeatedly] prunes, so that it will bear more fruit [even richer and finer fruit]. You are already clean because of the word which I have given you [the teachings which I have discussed with you]. Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken off] branch, and withers and dies; and they gather such

branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you **remain** in Me and My words **remain** in you [that is, **if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart**], **ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples.** I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; **remain** in My love [and do not doubt My love for you]. If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will **remain** in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and **remain** in His love. I have told you these things so that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy may be made full and complete and overflowing.”

(John 15:1-11 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.15.1-11.AMP>

We have embarked upon a series that is teaching us all how to be disciples, and go and make disciples. We've learned that salvation is free but discipleship will cost.

We've learned that salvation cost Jesus his life but discipleship will cost us. Jesus sets the bar high when it comes to following him. We must go and make disciples by immersing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit through teaching.

Denying ourselves

Deciding to suffer!

Demonstrating the Savior, and much more.

Using the Bible as a disciple's handbook

In this text Jesus is talking to His disciples about true commitment. This is actually a parable. **A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels. However, since it's Jesus sharing this, everyone needs to take heed as he talks about the connected disciple.**

These now 11 men have forsaken all to follow him. It's 11 because Judas is no longer with them for he has finally showed who he really is and is on his way to betray Jesus.

I shared with you that everyone who follows Jesus are not truly connected to Him.

In John 13:2-31 AMP...

“It was during supper, when the devil had already put [the thought of] betraying Jesus into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, After Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, one of you will betray Me and hand Me over.” Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I am going to give this piece [of bread] after I have dipped it.” So when He had dipped the piece of bread [into the dish], He gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. After [Judas had taken] the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly [without delay].” So when Judas had left, Jesus said, “Now is [the time for] the Son of Man [to be] glorified, and God is glorified in Him.”

(John 13:2-31 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.13.2-31.AMP>

I.

“ I am the true Vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

(John 15:1 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.15.1.AMP>

God referred to Israel as a vine

“You uprooted a vine (Israel) from Egypt; You drove out the [Canaanite] nations and planted the vine [in Canaan].”

(Psalms 80:8 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/psa.80.8.AMP>

“**Yet I had planted you [O house of Israel as] a choice vine,** A completely faithful seed. How then have you turned against Me Into degenerate shoots of a foreign and wild vine [alien to Me]?”

(Jeremiah 2:21 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jer.2.21.AMP>

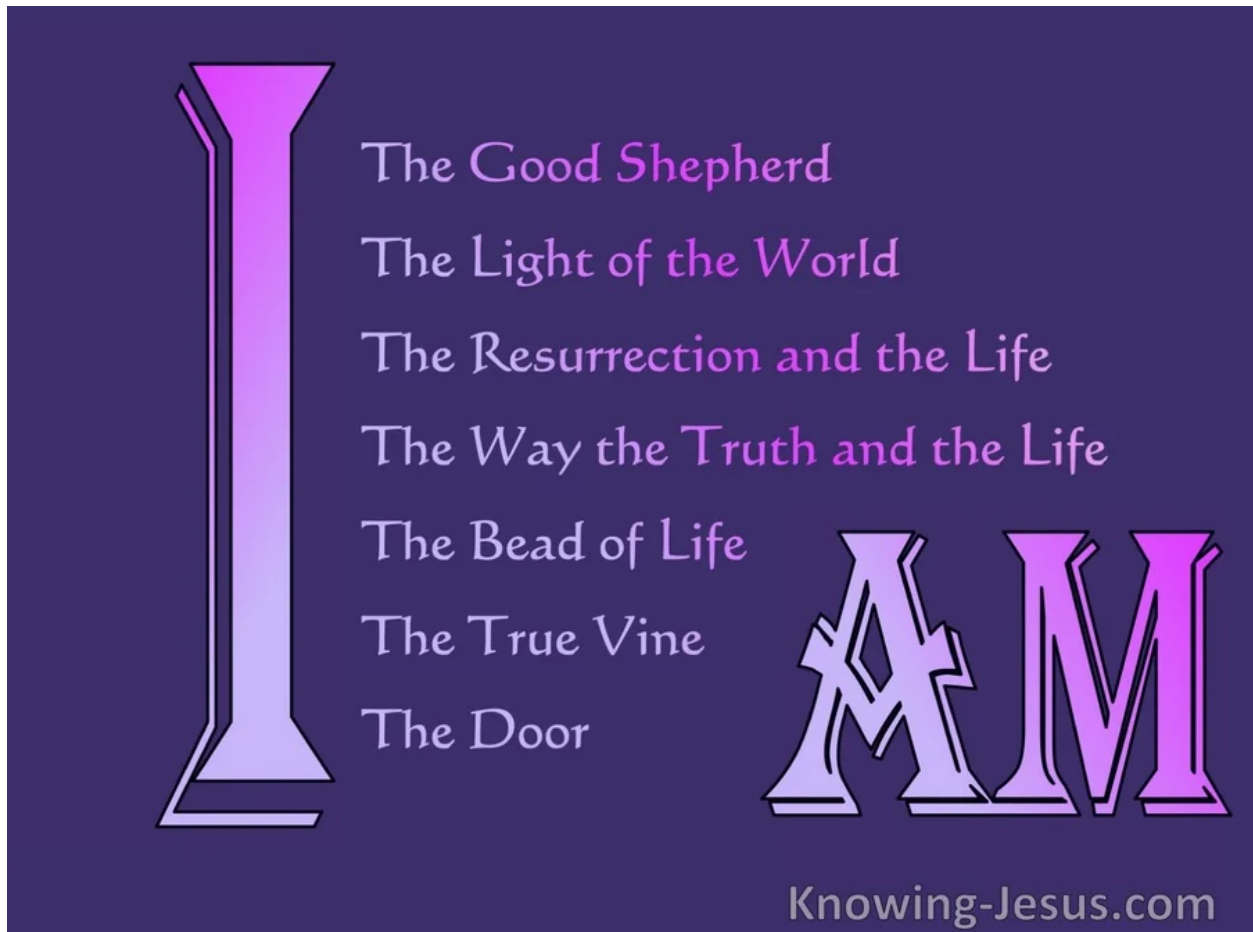
Jesus is saying I am the true vine. **I am the true life giver.** The apostle John writes to prove that Jesus is not just the Son of; He is God.

“In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. He was [continually existing] in the beginning [co-eternally] with God. All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him not even one thing was made that has come into being. And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [One and] only begotten Son of the Father, [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is] full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception).”

(John 1:1-14 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.1.1-14.AMP>

Jesus is the great I am



Jesus is the source and the sustainer of all life.
“He is the exact living image [the essential manifestation] of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible], the firstborn [the preeminent one, the sovereign, and the originator] of all creation. For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, [things] visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities;

all things were created and exist through Him [that is, by His activity] and for Him. And He Himself existed and is before all things, **and in Him all things hold together. [His is the controlling, cohesive force of the universe.]”**

(Colossians 1:15-17 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/col.1.15-17.AMP>

II.

“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. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. “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. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.”**

(John 15:2-6 NLT)

<https://bible.com/bible/116/jhn.15.2-6.NLT>

- Fruits take on the **character** of the vine/tree.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**”

(Galatians 5:23-24 ESV)

<https://bible.com/bible/59/gal.5.23-24.ESV>

“But what happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.”

(Galatians 5:22-23 MSG)

<https://bible.com/bible/97/gal.5.22-23.MSG>

- Fruit is always visible.



- Fruit is always beneficial.
- Fruit is shareable.
- Fruit contains seeds.
- Fruit always benefits someone else.

III.

***Abide is used 11 times**

In Greek, the word "abiding" can be translated to "meno" (μένω). The term "meno" has various meanings and can be used in different contexts. Here are a few possible translations and interpretations of "abiding" in Greek:

1. To stay: "meno" can simply **mean to remain or stay in a particular place. It implies not moving or departing from a location.**
2. To dwell: "meno" **can also convey the idea of dwelling or residing in a specific place or state. It can refer to a more permanent or long-lasting presence.**
3. To endure: another meaning of "meno" **is to endure or persist through difficult or challenging circumstances. It denotes the ability to remain steadfast or hold on despite obstacles.**
4. To continue: "meno" **can also be understood as continuing in a particular condition or state. It implies a continuous or ongoing existence.**

“Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. **Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.** If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken off] branch, and withers and dies; and they gather such branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; remain in My love [and do not doubt My love for you]. If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.”

(John 15:4-10 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.15.4-10.AMP>

“As for you, let that remain in you [keeping in your hearts that message of salvation] which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning remains

in you, you too will remain in the Son and in the Father [forever].”

(1 John 2:24 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/1jn.2.24.AMP>

“Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken off] branch, and withers and dies; and they gather such branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; remain in My love [and do not doubt My love for you]. If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.”

(John 15:4-10 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.15.4-10.AMP>

- **Living in His Word**

“If you remain in Me and My words remain in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you.”

(John 15:7 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.15.7.AMP>

- **Obeying His Commands**

“If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.”

(John 15:10 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.15.10.AMP>

- **Keeping Our Lives Clean**

“You are already clean because of the word which I have given you [the teachings which I have discussed with you]. Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me.”

(John 15:3-4 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.15.3-4.AMP>

“Husbands, love your wives [seek the highest good for her and surround her with a caring, unselfish love], just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify the church, **having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word [of God].**”
(Ephesians 5:25-26 AMP)

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/eph.5.25-26.AMP>

- **Having Unspeakable Joy**
I have told you these things so that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy may be made full and complete and overflowing.”
(John 15:11 AMP)

IV. _____

“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 NLT)

<https://bible.com/bible/116/jhn.15.7.NLT>

- Prayers will be answered based on my connection with Christ.
- Prayers will be answered because they are focused on the Word of Christ.
- Prayers will be answered because they fulfill the Will of Christ.
- Prayers will be answered because they bring glory to the Father.

Answer Key:

- I. Respects The Fact That Jesus is the True Vine.**
- II. Responds By Being Fruitful on the Vine and for the Vinedresser.**
- III. Realizes That Abiding in Christ Brings Victory.**
- IV. Rejoices in Prayers Answered Visibly.**

What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this message?
