



May 4, 2025

## I Am

“The Vine”

### John 15:1-8 (ESV)

“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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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 abide in me. 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. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

### Sermon Summary:

The "I Am" statements are a series of declarations made by Jesus in the Gospel of John which underscore His divine identity and mission. Each of these statements serves not only as a reflection of His nature but also as a way of revealing how He fulfills the spiritual needs of humanity. Jesus wasn't just exercising positive self-talk when He made these bold statements. He was letting the first-century Jews, familiar with God's definition of Himself, know that He truly was God incarnate, the Messiah they were waiting for.

It's important to consider that He knew who He was, and He wanted us to clearly know, too. He can't be minimized to merely our "ticket to heaven" but must be seen as our daily sustenance, our direction, our protector, our sacrificial Savior, our victory over death, our access to the Father and eternal life.

### Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Have you ever kept a garden or grown flowers? If so, discuss what was joyful about that experience, and what was hard about that experience.
2. Were the plants self-sustaining or did they require your continued care?
3. Did you have to prune any of the plants? Why did you prune them?
4. Just for fun, if plants could talk, and a plant asked you not to prune it, how would you explain why you are pruning it?

### Scripture Study Questions:

1. In the passage, who is the vine, who is the farmer/vinedresser, and who are the branches?
2. What does the vinedresser do to the vines that do not produce fruit? What does he do to those that do produce fruit?
3. What key word is used throughout this passage to describe how the branches should relate to the vine?
4. What is the reward that is promised to the fruitful branches?



### **Application Questions:**

1. The key word of whole passage is abide, which comes from the Greek root μένω (meno). In the context of these verses, it has an active meaning, imagine continuing on a set path for a marathon. Given this meaning, why is abiding in Jesus difficult?
2. In your prayer life, do you ask God to prune you? Why or why not? Can you think of a time that God pruned you and made you more fruitful?
3. We are saved by faith in Jesus, not by our own good works; yet, in the passage, there an emphasis on fruitfulness. Why do you think that is?
4. In the Old Testament, the idea of God's glory is related to properly viewing him as the most valuable thing there is. In this way, how does our fruitfulness glorify God?