

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 12, 2023

The Seven "I AM" Sayings of Jesus

Today's Message:

"I Am the True Vine"

Scripture: St. John 15:1-13 (Common English Bible)

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper.
²He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. ³You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. ⁶If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples."

⁹"As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹²This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends."

~ SERMON NOTES ~

In Jesus' analogy, he likened himself to a vine, while the fruit-bearing branches are the disciples. God waters and tends the vineyard so that the vine is properly nourished. But, this means that God also prunes the vines so that they might produce more fruit. What does it mean to be God's vineyard?

1. _____ to Christ_____.

According to what Jesus tells us here, a Christian is someone who is joined to Christ, just as a branch is joined to a vine. Being a Christian is all about having the right connection.

2. _____ Christ_____.

A Christ follower, who by definition is someone joined to Jesus Christ, through a personal relationship with Him will produce Christ-likeness.

3. _____ in Christ_____.

There is one key command given in this passage of scripture in verse 4, "Remain in Me." We are to continuously make Jesus Christ the center of our thoughts, the focus of our life, and the passion of our hearts.

