



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 15:1-11  
From Sermon 1.5.25

Read *John 15:1-11*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Returning to John's Gospel and Jesus' final words to the remaining disciples, we hear Him adding to the toolbelt of those who will start the Church and carry the message. This is a beautiful, comprehensible word-picture from the agricultural world—the Vine and the Branches. It further shows that lineage, rules, shallow faith, past experiences, and mere words amount to nothing.

Quick Quiz: The "I AM" Statements in John:

I AM the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door of the Sheep, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and now, the True Vine.

1. Biblical illustrations of God's relationship to His people:

- Matthew 6:9—Father & Children
- Matthew 25:34—King & Subjects
- Ephesians 2:20-22—Builder & Building
- Isaiah 54:5—Husband & Bride/Wife

2. Who was God's first vine and also the eventual source of the True Vine? Israel See also *Isaiah 5:7*.

2a. What has happened to the first vine? A hardening, in part = dormant branches. Therefore, also an inclusion of grafted branches = the Gentiles. Referencing Romans 11. Verse 25.

3. Discuss: Jesus the Vine = The entire culmination of Israel's purpose/existence. A people & nation, through which, to bring the Messiah.

4. Read and discuss the Dilemma vs the Antidote. Re-read *John 15:5*

- Dilemma: "Apart from Me, you can do nothing."
- Antidote: *Philippians 4:13* = I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

4a. What Christian requirement does this highlight? A full and utter reliance on Christ in all aspects of life.

4b. In what aspects of life do you find it most challenging to stay connected to Christ the Vine? Various personal answers. Finances. Dealing with other people. Facing and defeating temptation. Emotions and trust. Forgiveness...

5. Who was the first false branch to be "cut off" in Christ? Judas Iscariot

6. What is both the goal and evidence of connected branches? Good Fruit vs. Bad Fruit (thorns).  
See also *Matthew 7:15-20* & *Galatians 5:22-23*