

The Seven "I AM" Statements of Jesus

I AM the True Vine

(John 15:1-8)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of how a man got rich.
 2. This lesson will bring to a close our series on the "I AM" statements from the book of John.
 3. All of these "I AM" statements were designed to impress upon people the identity of Jesus...that he was more than a man, but the God of Heaven who visited us in the form of a man.
 4. Let's examine his claim, "I AM the truth vine."

I. There is No Life Apart from Jesus

- A. (John 15:4-5).
- B. A branch cannot live apart from the vine.
- C. Jesus is claiming to be the source of life.
- D. Compare with (John 6:35) "I am the bread of life."

II. We Must Abide in Jesus

- A. (John 15:4).
- B. Getting into Jesus is not sufficient.
 1. How we get in Christ:
 - a. (Romans 6:3).
 - b. (Galatians 3:27).
 2. This is the beginning, not the end of salvation.
- C. Far too many people salvation as an event and not a process.
 1. Our initial salvation is an event (Acts 2:38).
 2. But staying saved is a process (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
- D. We must bear fruit (John 15:2).

III. There Are Severe Consequences if We Don't Abide in Jesus

- A. (John 15:6).
- B. The consequences of failing to abide in Jesus and bear fruit are being cast into fire and burned.
- C. Surely, one can see the illusion to Hell (Revelation 20:15).
- D. The doctrine of "once saved, always saved" may be comforting to people, but it is a false comfort.

- Conclusion:
1. I'm looking at a lot of "rich" people today.
 2. But your riches weren't earned but given to you because of your connection to Jesus.
 3. Some however may need to get connected, and some who have been connected need to bear fruit.