

April 2, 2020

## A Portrait of Love - Part 9

John 15:1, “Jesus said to him, ‘I Am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.’”

This is the seventh of the “I Am” statements that Jesus makes. He makes this proclamation to remind us that all good things come from the vine. He is the power. He is the sustenance. He is the center of life. In v. 5 He says, “I Am the vine, you are the branches. He that abides in me and I in him, the same will bring forth much fruit; for apart from Me, you can do nothing.” The center piece of this statement for us is that we abide in Him. The word for abide is meno and it means to “stay.” When we stay and will not leave His presence, we will experience love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; the fruit of His Spirit.

Someone once said, “If you feel like God is far away, guess who moved.” God will never leave you nor forsake you. He will always be right there for you because God is love. The problem is that we tend to pull away, walk away or drift away. We lose our focus and begin to look at the things of the world instead of the things of God. Jesus said if you will stay and not leave, you will bring forth much fruit.

When you find yourself feeling down or troubled, return to the Vine. We cannot live or exist without His help; without His hope; without His love. We need the Vine to live and to love. Acts 17:28 For in Him we live and move and have our being.

Are you staying in Him? Or are you straying from Him? Run to the Vine. Choose to stay and not leave. Cast all your cares upon Him for He cares for you. He will take care of you. He will feed you, strengthen you, hold you, love you and be there with you. He will never let you go. Dear Father, I want to stay in You today. Help me to keep my eyes fixed on You and to dwell in Your presence. You are my hiding place and my safe shelter. I choose today to stay. In Jesus Name, Amen