

NAME

I am the True Vine #207.mp3

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START OF TRANSCRIPT

**[00:00:06] Jimmy Knott**

Hello. Greetings, my friend. Welcome to the podcast. Teaching the Transforms with Pastor Jimmy Not. Thank you so much for joining me today. Today, a conclude series been on this is the 7th podcast, the series entitled Gigantic Affirmations from Christ The I Am Sayings of Jesus. All of these are recorded in the Gospel of John, whose sole purpose in writing his book was to declare and to affirm the deity of Jesus Christ.

**[00:00:38] Jimmy Knott**

These I am sayings all help us to understand the identity of Jesus and the mission of Jesus.

**[00:00:48] Jimmy Knott**

Thus far, we've looked at I am the bread of life, I am the light of the world, I am the door or the gate, I am the good shepherd, I am the resurrection and the life. I am the way, the truth and the life. And then this seventh and final gigantic affirmation in John Chapter Fifteen I Am the True Vine. If this passes, Jesus really details the very essence of Christian living, and that is to abide, to remain, to stay in touch, to live with, as it were, Christ.

**[00:01:24] Jimmy Knott**

And then as a result of that Vidar relationship to bear fruit.

**[00:01:28] Jimmy Knott**

So to abide in Christ and to bear fruit again, these last two sayings are different in terms of context and audience than the first five. The first five took place in a public crowds and these last two in chapters 13 to 17. Jesus is giving private instructions basically over one evening to those closest to him, his disciples.

**[00:01:55] Jimmy Knott**

We're just a few hours before his death. Let me read a passage.

**[00:02:02] Jimmy Knott**

I am the true value, my father is the vine dresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away and every branch that does bear fruit, he proves that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abidin, me and I. And 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. Imagine me and I am him. He 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, in my words about and 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 modest hypos. As the father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my co-manage, you will abide in my love. Just as I have kept my father's commandments and abide in his love base things. I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be for then skipping down to verse sixteen, Jesus says You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the father in my name, he may give it to you.

**[00:03:32] Jimmy Knott**

He may give it to you.

**[00:03:34] Jimmy Knott**

We need to identify and understand there five elements or critical symbols in this asked, I am saying that really helps us to have a fuller meaning, as it were, to the entire passage.

**[00:03:48] Jimmy Knott**

There is the bine. And that's a reference to Jesus, Jesus is divine. There is the vine dresser. That's a reference to God or to God the father. There are the branches. The branches are Christians who deal with that more if you minutes. There is a concept of a biid. And there is a concept of fruit. I'll unpack those as we walk through this lesson today. But here's the principle abiding in the ban results in bearing fruit. It's simply it's simply just that abiding in him, staying in him. Results and are bearing fruit. Let's look at each of these

elements for a few minutes.

**[00:04:29] Jimmy Knott**

First, the vine is the sun back in the Old Testament and a number of places. Israel's was symbolized with the ban as a chapter. Fab. versus 6:59 is probably the best picture they have. But also in some 80 versus eight to 16, God had planted the Jewish people, the nation of Israel, into a foreign land, into the land of Canaan.

**[00:04:52] Jimmy Knott**

And he did that for them to bear fruit. Unfortunately, for the most part, they came up empty. In the New Testament, this sign is personalized in the person of Jesus Christ, Jesus says twice. I am the true vine like Israel. He was planted, but he was much more than a symbol.

**[00:05:12] Jimmy Knott**

Passage says he's the true vine. He's the actual vine. He is the real vine. He is the genuine vine. Not a copy, not a substitute, but the real thing and the vine.

**[00:05:22] Jimmy Knott**

Jesus is the source of life for the branch. He is the man. Second picture is that of the vine dresser, who is the father? The vine dresser plants the vine, as he did with the nation, Israel. And as he did with the person of his son, Christ. Note the actions of the vine dresser that are mentioned here in the passage. The gardener does something to those branches not bearing fruit mentions in verse 2 and 6 that some branches are not bearing fruit. And for those that don't, he cuts off or takes away or removes them. I'll address that a little bit more detail later. And then the gardener or the vine dresser also does something to those branches that are not bearing enough fruit.

**[00:06:09] Jimmy Knott**

It says he prunes them or he cleanses them by pinching them or by topping it all for thinning it out like we do a lot of our foliage in our gardens or in our yards when we come into the into the springtime. But the pruning describes a cleansing process, which, frankly, may help my hurt in order to help.

**[00:06:32] Jimmy Knott**

Very important. Very important, one New Testament writer, Mark Tinnie, said in pruning of Vine. Two principles are generally observed. First, all, deadwood. must be ruthlessly removed. And second, the language must be cut back drastically. deadwood. harbors insects and disease. It may cause the vine to rot. To say nothing of being unproductive and unsightly livelihood must be trimmed back in order to prevent such heavy growth that the life of the vine goes into to to the wood rather than into fruit. The vineyards in the early spring look like a collection of barren bleeding stumps, but in the fall they are filled with luxurious purple grapes. As the farmer wheels the pruning knife on his vines, so God cuts dead wood out from among his saints and often cuts back to living wood so that far. That his method same SCU. Nevertheless, for those who have suffered the most, there often comes the greatest fruitfulness in our lives.

**[00:07:32] Jimmy Knott**

So Jesus is the vine. The Heavenly Father is the vine dresser. He plants us and he and he cuts back the branches and he prunes the branches. I think the instrument that he uses more than anything else, his pruning estimate is as the word of God. Sometimes he'll use difficult circumstances, but he knows how to get the knife and he knows how to use a knife. In our lives, the third picture here and symbol, it's important, is that the branches are Christians. This is a little bit tough passage, but I will try to make my way through it and give you understanding. There are two kinds of Christians or branches that are mentioned here.

**[00:08:12] Jimmy Knott**

Both. Please note this. Both are in union with Christ. This passage is not about salvation. This passage is about the Christian life and producing fruit. The words in this passage from Jesus are aimed at those who have already established a relationship. With him, the thrust here is not on becoming a Christian. But I'm bringing fruit or producing as a Christian, so there are two kinds of Christians. First are the fruitful and productive branches and a few truths about them. First is they abide in him. That's the secret to bearing fruit. Ten times in a passage. 11, if you count, were 16, he says to abide. It means to stay or to remain or to grow in union with or to draw strength from. It's a key term in the passage. He, as the man, is the only source of true spiritual life, he says in verse four. Without him, we can do not very little, or we can do less than the best without him. We can do nothing. He is that sap running from the vine Christ into the branches is the person of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives will be come into a relationship with him. William Barclay explains it this way. The secret of a life of Jesus was his contact with God again and again. He withdrew into a solitary place to meet him. We must keep in contact with Jesus. We cannot do that unless we deliberately take the steps to do it. Take to take but one example to pray in the morning. For most of us, it will mean a constant contact with him. It will mean arranging life, arranging prayer, arranging silence in such a way that there is never a day when we give ourselves a chance to forget him.

**[00:10:02] Jimmy Knott**

To forget him.

**[00:10:05] Jimmy Knott**

Notice in the passages that there are varying degrees of fruitfulness and he really mentions forward in the passage, there are those Christians who are bearing no fruit. Those who are bearing fruit, those who are bearing more fruit and those who are bearing much fruit. What's he talking about here? Well, I think he's telling us that there'll be different levels of fruit bearing in our lives at times when he mentions fruit. What's he talking about? I think primarily in the passage calls this passage, I think connects to that, like the

bread of life, the resurrection and the life. And last time we talked about way, the truth and the life and that's life in him and becoming more like him. I think the fruit primarily here is a reference to Christ likeness and attitudes and beliefs and behaviors. He is producing he's the way Jesus is producing, reproducing his life through us and we yield to his influence in our lives and the keys to that. The key to this fruit bearing the keys to growing and developing more fruit is abiding and responding rightfully to the pruning process. Remember Dan in verse sixteen? He said, I have appointed you that you should go and you bear much fruit. We are chosen, appointed to bear fruit.

**[00:11:26] Jimmy Knott**

And when we do, he gives us some evidence his or some benefits of being fruit bearing in our lives. He says in verse seven, we experience answered prayer. He says in verse 8, we bring glory to the father. He says in verses 9 and 10 that our motivation is love. Our motivation for obeying him is love. And then last. Which is one of my favorites in verse eleven. He says these things. Have I spoken to you that my joy may be in you and your joy may be full and that's complete fullness of joy. Remember, remember, John, 14, says they were so troubled in two places. They were so troubled. Well, there's no room for trouble and worry. When joy reigns in our lives. So you have two kinds of branches or Christians, the fruitful and the productive ones. And then let me speak to the fruitless and the barren ones. First, he says that those who bear no fruit are cut off. It's a very interesting word. It's the word that we get our word, resurrection, frump. It means to raise up or to lift up. Now, why is that important? Because great bands do not produce fruit if they are allowed to fall and to remain in the dirt. And neither will Christians.

**[00:12:45] Jimmy Knott**

And that's why God has to lift us up through through discipline in our lives and lifting us up out of the dirt, a bad choices of symphonies in our lives. So you and I can bear fruit. Then it says in verse 6 that those that don't bear fruit are picked up, thrown away and even says burn. Now, is Jesus saying that the union with him, the relationship with him? Is he saying that we can lose that relationship or lose our salvation? You know, I just don't see that in a passage. This is not a passage about salvation. These unproductive branches, as it were, are in him. That's what he said back in verse two. And then he also said they are like a branch, like a branch that's thrown into the fire and burn. It's not so much that the branch of the Christian is burned up. I think as the results of the works of their life is burned up. The Christian never ceases to be a branch. Never, ever believer never ceases to be Christian. No matter how barony he or she becomes, I think Jesus is probably describing believers who kind of drift away in their journey with Christ and begin to level a little bit more disobedient, barren lives.

**[00:13:55] Jimmy Knott**

And they are kind of dead wood, as it were, in the process. The process is so important that we respond to the pruning, into the cutting off in order that we might be lifted up, in order that might might we might resume again to bear fruit, to hopefully continue to grow and to bear more fruit, and that at times even to bear much fruit in our journey. So let me sum it up and just kind of three truths from this final gigantic affirmation. Number one, when we abide in him, remain in him, grow in him. When we fail to do that, should I say we will be less fruitful and we will be disciplined in love? So how do we grow in him? How do we abide in him? Bible study. Worship. Serving prayer fellowship with other believers. If we're consistently seeing no fruit in our lives or very little, we need to really check our relationship with the van and whether or not we're batting. True, too, when we Abadan respond to his pruning. Which is painful. Do this cleansing with hearts, we will become more and even much more fruitful. Pruning is always painful and it's never pleasant. Pruning drives us closer and back to the source. We need to remember, my friend, God's hand is never closer to us than when he's pruning us. And then third, and I think so important because it's why we exist. God is glorified when we bear fruit. God is qualified when we bear fruit.

**[00:15:33] Jimmy Knott**

That's so very, very important on our journeys that we realize that our Heavenly Father, when we bear fruit through our relationship with Christ, that he is glorified in our journey, we close with a little bit of it illustrates just imagine you've got a pair of scissors in front of you and we know they consist of two single blades.

**[00:15:52] Jimmy Knott**

Yet those blades, regardless of Ashar or Hasani, are useless without one main essential element.

**[00:16:00] Jimmy Knott**

And that's that small metal screw that holds those two single blades together.

**[00:16:07] Jimmy Knott**

Can you imagine trying to cut paper or fabric without that tiny screw? Of course you could put a blade in each hand. But I really think that would be very difficult to try to cut and even and at a precise way. But when that little screw brings both blades together, suddenly doesn't have a cunning cutting. Just become almost effortless. Here's the application in our relationship with God. Abiding in Jesus. Abiding in him is the screw that holds everything together and makes us useful. Damn. What a great C series, gigantic affirmations, declarations about Christ to I am sayings. Thank you so much for listening to truth that transforms. Remember, it only transforms us when we applied. Blessings from Pastor Jimmy. I look forward to seeing you next time.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

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