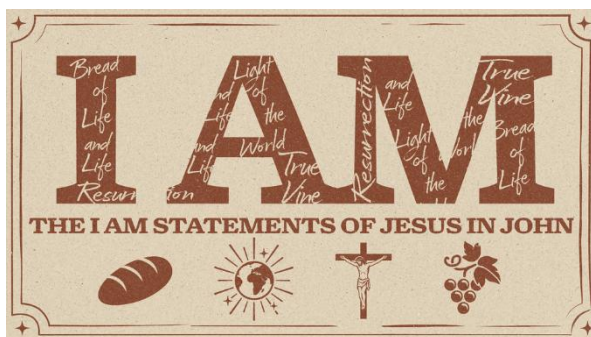




Bread of Life

Week 1 – I Ams – 9/13/2026

Welcome and Prayer

PASSAGE: John 8:48–59 – what does Jesus claim here about himself?

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

- Jews accusing Jesus of having a demon, insult – Samaritan.
- Claims – who keeps word will bring eternal life, Father (God) glorifies him (approves).
- Abraham in OT, respected figure, father of the nation—looked forward to my day—Messiah OT pointed toward.
- Jesus said, “you do not know the Father of Abraham”
 - Called them Liars, said that they do not know God – this caused great anger in them.

In this passage, Picture scene!

- May have been, shouting, anger, hush—raises his hand, says, v 58.

⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

- This was a bold statement and landed on them strongly.

⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.”

- **Reaction**—wanted to stone him, kill him, **why so strong?**
 - Claiming to be God! This is called blasphemy, penalty in the OT was capital punishment by stoning (Lv 24:16; Deut 13:6-11).
 - But not by mob violence, but by a just judgment, witnesses/leaders (Deut 17:2-7).

Another part of the reason their reaction... so strong OT connection.

- This phrase has a strong, clear, obvious connection to the OT.
- Background is important to understand their strong reaction.
- Important phrase in Greek (I am)...same phrase was used in the Septuagint—Greek translation of the OT that many used then.
- They knew the phrase he was using in Greek was a clear reference to the burning bush scene with Moses where God calls himself the I AM. (Exodus 3:14)

Background, burning bush Exodus 3:1–17 ... [summarize]

¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the

children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

[Read, they can turn to Bibles]

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

- Moses asks for God’s name – so he can tell the people who has sent, promise.
- God identifies himself – God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.
- God reveals himself to be “Yahweh” , Hebrew consonants YHWH, and this phrase “I Am who I am,” both are built on the same Hebrew word (*hyayh*).
- God shares his name, three ways:
 1. “I Am who I am” (14)
 2. Tell the them “I Am” has sent you (14)
 3. Tell them “Yahweh...has sent me to you...this is my name forever.” (15)

What does “I am who I am” mean? (implications)

- What other attributes of God does this phrase cover/attached to?
- Ever considered this? When God says “I am who I am” what does this reveal about God, his character or works? Six quick attributes.

1. God is Self-existent

He is independent, not dependent on anyone for his existence. His being is grounded in only himself. No reality exists behind God—His personality and power is owing solely to himself.

2. God is Creator and Sustainer of all that exists –

Acts 17:28 – “In him we live and move and have our being.” All power and energy in the universe flows from God. We must conform to God, not He to us. There is objective reality, He defines it.

3. God is Unchanging

He is immutable, being and character have always remained consistent. Four aspects of God as unchanging: character, nature, purposes, and promises.

4. God is Eternal

God is not a created being, and is not subject to the limitations of time. God has always existed and will always exist, so it is not “I was” or “I will be” But “I AM” – “I was, I am now, and I will always be.” God exists, period.

5. God is the LORD

He rules, reigns, and is the king and master of universe.

- See this in verse 15, 16 – Say to the people Yahweh has sent you, This becomes the proper name for God.
- Yahweh then becomes translated as LORD.
- Yahweh sounds in Hebrew like a form of the verb “to be” or here “I am.”
- English translations put YHWH as the LORD in all capitals in the OT. Used 6,828 times in the OT.
- Also “Lord” in Greek becomes a title for Jesus—The Lord Jesus Christ.

(so Self-existent, creator, eternal, unchanging, Lord) But most importantly,

6. God is Present with his people!

- **Main focus** of this passage... a nuance of I AM is “I will be”... meaning, I will be with you!
- God tells Moses he will be with him, his people, to be their God – save, provide, protect, guide...bring them out of Egypt/captivity and into the promised land.
- **God is saying**, “I have promised this and I will see it through! I will be with you!”

So, when we get to Jesus in **John 8**, and other places he uses this phrase, all this background is loaded in this phrase—self-existence, creator, sustainer, unchanging, eternal, rules/reigns, present with his people—all things that are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus!!

In John, Apostle John uses phrase, “I Am” 23x in the Greek is (ego eimi, Εγώ εμι),

- It is used for emphasis, phrase itself serves as a repetition,
- Literally means “I, yes I, Am.”

This phrase is used in three ways in John:

1. Absolute statements

- Like in our passage today Jn 8, points to his self-existence and eternal nature (6:20, 8:24, 18:5) “Before Abraham was, I AM” (8:58).

2. Uncertain statements – (uncertain predicate, no predicate)

- Also used when people are uncertain.
- Example - 6:20, walks on water, disciples were scared and uncertain, to comfort them, Jesus said, “It is I.” ...Do not be afraid. (seven of these)

3. Metaphorical statements (there’s a predicate) I am ____ . Descriptor.

- The absolute I am added to seven powerful metaphors to describe who Jesus is.
- So these are clear statements that Jesus is God, I am, and added to this are the powerful metaphors/images, added to the absolute phrase.

BREAD OF LIFE

*I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger,
and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*

John 6:35

- Jesus gives spiritual life to our longing souls. Whoever comes to him and believes, he gives eternal life. Jesus satisfies the hunger in our souls to be filled and to belong.
- When we hunger to belong, when we are dry spiritually, Jesus fills us with his presence and satisfies our deepest need for relationship. We are assured of the abundant spiritual life we have in him, both now and forever.

Old Testament Background – five texts

(Exodus 16:31-36; Psalm 78:20-25; Psalm 105:40; Nehemiah 9:15; Isaiah 55:1-7).

Exodus 16:31–36

Context – early in the wilderness journey, they grumbled and complained about being thirsty and hungry, so God provided the manna.

- An abundant provision for 40 years, even though they grumbled and complained, disobeyed continually, God stayed faithful to provide!
- **Numbers 11**, the people are still grumbling (they had just set out from Mt. Sinai), “there is nothing but this manna to look at.”
- “I fed you” – it was God who did it, He fed.

- “to be kept throughout your generations.” (33)
- A very important sign, to show God’s provision and faithfulness to future generations!
- Kept some and put in ark eventually (Ex 25:16; Heb 9:4 “in a gold urn”)

Psalm 105

- Reflects on the Lord’s deliverance out of Egypt and the many blessings of provisions.
- One of them is manna – and it was given in “abundance.”! (verse 40).

Nehemiah 9:15 (and context)

“You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst,”

- Context – stiffened neck, did not obey, refused to obey...but it says in verse 17, “God did not forsake them.”
- It was a gift for their hunger – Jesus is God’s gift to satisfy spiritual hunger.
- It ultimately showed verse 17b... “But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.” IN Jesus!
- The NT also mentions the rock that was struck to provide water
 - The rock was Christ, he provides for their thirst (1 Cor 10:4).
- Christ is the bread and the rock, the source of spiritual sustenance!

Psalm 78:12-25

- Goes through the history of Israel, highlights their rebellion, did not trust God. “Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven,²⁴ and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.²⁵ Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.” (23-25)
- God “rained down” spiritual sustenance in Jesus!

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-7

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David... “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return

to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

- Very similar to our key verse! “I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger...shall not thirst.”
- The call here is to be satisfied in God, and ultimately his Son Jesus, the bread of life. Seek the Lord, call upon him, and forsake wickedness.
- The everlasting covenant with David, fulfilled in Christ, descendant of David who secured our forgiveness by his sacrifice so we could be filled, satisfied!
- The promise of compassion and abundant pardon, forgiveness of sins.
- Ultimately we are pardoned and forgiven in Christ!

So, some summary questions and answers

1. How does the Bible describe manna?

Grain of heaven, rained down in abundance, bread of angels, coriander seed – white – wafers and honey (sweet), heavenly food, good for you, provided for forty years.

2. For what purposes did God send the manna?

For their hunger, it was a mercy, on heels of unbelief and disobedience – “I fed you,” preserved in ark for future generations as a testimony to God’s provision & faithfulness, learn to trust in God each day for life (14,600 days).

3. Jot down any other important information about manna.

They didn’t deserve it – complained a lot. Means, “what is it?!”

4. Question for group or partners. What are some parallels between these OT passages about manna, and Christ. How does all this relate to Jesus Christ, who said, “I am the bread of life”?

- Jesus is eternal, spiritual sustenance.
- Jesus is Word of God, it is sweeter than honey.
- Jesus is heavenly, come down from God as a gift.
- Manna commanded from heaven, Jesus is the Word sent from heaven.
- We don’t work for the gift of Jesus’ forgiveness, we receive. It comes, we believe.
- Jesus is a mercy for us on the heels of our disobedience.

New Testament: I Am the Bread of Life, John 6.

Context – After the feeding of the 5,000, bread and fish for everyone!

- Many people seeking Jesus, interested in what he would do next.

Read John 6:22-59

Thoughts from the text

- Book of Signs (John 20:30-31) – v26, 30 – You saw “signs,” we have manna as a “sign,” what do you have? Jesus one upped them!
- Jesus exclaimed, I am what your sign, the sign of manna pointed to!
 - I am The Bread of Eternal Life!
- John Piper says, “Jesus came not to give bread but to be bread.”
- “Jesus is the “bread of life” in the sense that he nourishes people spiritually and satisfies the deep spiritual longings of their souls... their spiritual longing to know God will be satisfied.” (Köstenberger)

Key verses are 32-35, 47-51

- Given by God from heaven, bread is Jesus, gives eternal life (never hunger or thirst spiritually)
- How is this possible? Verse 51 **[read]** – through sacrifice of his life, body and blood on the cross, “flesh and blood”

“The preposition in ‘*for* the life of the world’ (*hyper*) is repeatedly found in a sacrificial context in the Fourth Gospel... Jesus himself is the one who gives his flesh: his sacrifice is voluntary (*cf.* Heb. 9:13–14). And since it is *for the life of the world*, his sacrifice is vicarious.” (in the place of another) (D.A. Carson on 6:51).

- Luke 22:19-20 is very similar sacrificial language. My body, which is given **for** you...cup, poured out **for** you is the new covenant in my blood.

What is the Result, so that... (same group, two ways to describe)

- (1) everyone who the Father has given Jesus, who the Father draws (37, 44).
- (2) everyone who believes in Jesus (47), that’s the “work” Jesus refers to.

“The only “work” that guarantees the possession of this redemptive manna is to believe in Jesus (John 6:29). The gospel sabotages any notion of legalism or performance-based acceptability with God. The only thing we bring to Jesus is our need. All we offer is the admission that we have nothing to offer.”

(D.A. Carson on 6:35)

- We don’t work for our salvation, the “work” is not doing good deeds at all, it is belief, trust, faith in HIS work.

“To “eat” Jesus’ flesh has the spiritual meaning of trusting or believing in him, especially in his death for the sins of mankind... to “drink his blood” means to trust in his atoning death, which is represented by the shedding of his blood.”
(Kostenberger on 6:52)

Quick Summary – 4 S

1. Jesus Saves (47)
“whoever believes has eternal life.”
2. Jesus Satisfies (35)
“whoever comes to me...shall not hunger...never thirst”
3. Jesus secures (37, 39)
“whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”
4. Jesus seeks (Luke 19:10)
They were seeking Christ, but he is the one who seeks us, to save. “The son of man came to seek and save the lost.” (Luke 19:10).

BIG IDEA

The sign of manna pointed to Jesus. Jesus is God’s abundant provision of eternal life. Everyone who believes in him has eternal food - life forever.

- Jesus’ body was given and blood was spilled to provide life.
- So he gives eternal life to those who believe in him, eternal food forever.
- No more spiritual hunger!

“Jesus becomes this spiritually satisfying “bread” by sacrificing his own physical body in his death on the cross.”
(Kostenberger on 6:51)

Additionally, Jesus feeds us with his Word, as we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

- Jesus is also the Word of God, his Words provide life and sustenance – blessed are those who hunger and thirst, they will be satisfied!

Summary Chart

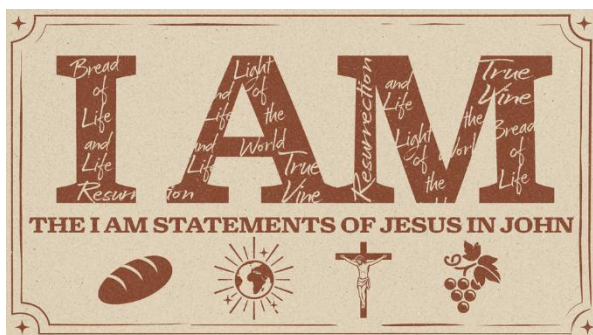
Source	From God, heaven	32-33
Sign	Manna, to Israel for their hunger	30
Fulfillment	Jesus, to those who believe for their spiritual hunger	33, 35, 51
Gift	Eternal life, they will be raised on the last day	27, 40, 51 & 39-40, 44
Means	Jesus' flesh & blood accomplished the atonement for sin	51, 54
Recipients	Those the Father draws & gives Jesus	37, 44
The Work	Faith/belief, those who believe and come to Jesus	29, 35, 37, 40, 47
Scope	The world – whoever comes, whoever believes	33, 35
Assurance	None given to Jesus will be cast out or lost	31, 39

Application Time

- What sources of temporary satisfaction do you seek to satisfy your hungers and thirsts (i.e. approval, success, selfish desires)? How can you seek to be more satisfied in Christ, the Bread of Life?
- How are you feeding on Jesus, how can you taste and see he is good?
- How will you hunger and thirst for righteousness this week?

Growth Project

- Take time to do deeper study and meditation on Isaiah 55:1-6 and how it relates to Christ as the Bread of Life.



Light of the World

Week 2 – I Am's – 9/20/2026

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

"I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

- Jesus, the Light of the World, gives us the light of life. We no longer have to live in darkness. He provides truth for us to walk in today and gives us hope for a bright future.
- When we feel in the dark, confused about life, or discouraged because of sin, Jesus provides truth, understanding, and his firm promises to lean on.

Imagine being at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus.

- The final of the 7 Jewish feasts of the year in early October.
- It was the 7th feast, for 7 days, in the 7th month of the year!
- This was a celebration of the completion of harvest time.
- It was a joyous celebration of God's provision of harvest and to look toward the day when all nations would be ingathered, "end time harvest," which anticipated the Messiah reigning over his people and all nations.
- In John 8, Jesus was there with his disciples, celebrating the feast.
- As part of the celebration, each night huge lamp stands were lit. Singing, praising, etc... These were four, 75 foot lamp stands.
- The temple was on a hill, so everyone around could see the lights!
- They sang and read Scripture, one verse they read is **Zechariah 14:5-7**,

"Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light."

- These readings were intended to point the people to the future Messiah, pointed to a time where there would be no more darkness because of sin.
- On the 8th day would be a solemn assembly. Everyone would gather and the huge lamp stands would be extinguished and darkness would fill the area.
- Where there just was blazing light, filling the entire area, now only darkness.

Now consider, it was there, with all this going on during the festival.

- Perhaps he spoke these words after the light had been extinguished.
- Maybe he pointed to the lampstands as he spoke.
- We don't know for sure exactly when, but we know that, sometime during festival, Jesus spoke these words for all to hear!

“I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” **John 8:12**

Now, think about the significance of this I Am statement in light of the context of the feast of Tabernacles!

- Think about what it may have been like to be an Israelite at that festival.
- You would clearly understand this powerful metaphor.

Quick question – So what does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world? How would you explain this concept to someone? Let's take a look...

Light: Five Connections to Christ

- Five P's of the significance of the phrase, “I am the Light of the World.”
1. Jesus is the **Personal** light of God.
“I am...” He is that light made flesh!
 2. Jesus is the **Perpetual** light of God.
“light of life” the candles were put out, but Jesus would remain. Eternal.
 3. Jesus is the **Perfect** light of God.
The standard of righteousness.
 4. Jesus is the **Pure** light of God.
He is holy, no darkness in him at all!
 5. Jesus is the **Powerful** light of God.
His light is available to all, every nation, and has the power to save us from our darkness of sin.

(Nadler, *Messiah in the Feasts of Israel*, pp. 165-166)

Light in the Storyline of Scripture

- Walk through Scripture with an eye on this theme of light.

To think about as we go through - In the storyline of Scripture, what concept(s) does light symbolize? Think about it, underline and jot down your thoughts as we go.

CREATION – LIGHT AND LIFE

Genesis 1:1–5

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

FALL - DARKNESS

John 3:19–20

19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

REDEMPTION - LIGHT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 13:21–22

21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. 22 The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Leviticus 24:1–4

1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil from beaten olives for the lamp, that a light may be kept burning regularly. 3 Outside the veil of the testimony, in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall arrange it from evening to morning before the LORD regularly. It shall be a statute forever

throughout your generations. 4 He shall arrange the lamps on the lampstand of pure gold before the LORD regularly.

Psalm 27:1

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Isaiah 9:2–7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 42:5–9

5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: 6 "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my

praise to carved idols. 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Isaiah 49:6

6 he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Zechariah 14:5–8

Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. 6 On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. 7 And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

REDEMPTION IN CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 1:1–5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 9:1–7

1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

REDEMPTION – **WALKING** IN THE LIGHT

Matthew 5:14–16

14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Acts 26:14–18 (18)

14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ 15 And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

2 Corinthians 4:6

6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

1 John 1:5–7

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

NEW CREATION – THE **GLORY** OF GOD AND THE **LAMB** WILL BE THE LIGHT

Revelation 21:22–26

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations...

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever (22:4-5).

Thoughts from the group, what does light symbolize in the story of Scripture?

- Goodness.
- Knowledge of truth vs. reasoning in the darkness.
- Scripture is light, Jesus fulfilled Scripture.
- No in between, either in Jesus or in darkness.
- Context – authoritative teachings of Jesus, in temple – Jesus is the light of the knowledge of God, the revelation of God (John 8:19).
- Symbolizes eternal life in Jesus.
- Light, first and most basic concept. Spiritual and physical light and darkness. Gospel truth is light and life, represents truth.
- Bridegroom comes out like the sun – Jesus is the light.

Summary Chart – The Light of the World

Lighting Ceremony	The Prophesied Messiah	Jesus' Words During the Feast	New Jerusalem
Seventy-five-foot high lamp stands were placed in the court of the women in the temple grounds.	"I will also make You a light of the nations. So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)	"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life" (John 8:12).	"And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light" (Rev. 21:23–24)

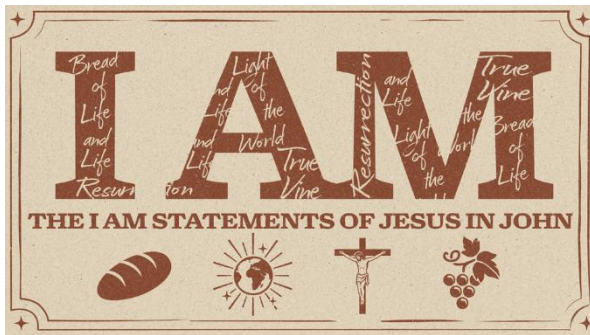
(Adapted from Nadler, *Messiah in the Feasts*)

Growth Project

- Take time to do deeper study of the passage that contains the light of the world statement, John 8:12-30. What further connections can you make from this passage that add to the meaning of Jesus as "the light of the world?"

Application Time - so what does this look like in our lives? What difference does this I am of Jesus make?

1. Is there an area of your life right now where you feel in the dark - such as confusion, discouragement because of sin, or suffering/pain? How does the light of Jesus give you hope in those places where you feel darkness remains?
2. God's Word is a light to our path (Ps 119:105). Where do you need the light of God's guidance right now? What would it look like to seek help and guidance from the light of the world?
3. How can you practically in your life right now let your light shine before others, discern what is pleasing to the Lord, or expose the deeds of darkness (Matt 5:16; Eph 5:8-14)?



Door & Shepherd

Week 3 – I Am's – 9/27/2026

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"I am the Good Shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11

- Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.
- So when we stray, he knows us and what we need to get back on the path. When we face danger and spiritual attack, he protects us. When we get scared and anxious, he provides for us. And when we need direction, he guides us.

John 10:11, "I am the Good Shepherd."

"Good" shepherd.

- "Good" (*kalos*) one who has positive qualities (LEX) qualities of goodness and beauty (Morris)
 - "good" suggests nobility or worth, the "noble" shepherd, the "worthy" shepherd (Carson).
- Jesus is the **true** shepherd, verses the false leaders.
 - So, Jesus is the true, noble, worthy shepherd.
- This is in strong contrast to the unworthy, bad shepherd - the "hired hand." Hired hands were in it for themselves, not attached to the sheep, don't "care," "flees" when wolves came (12-13).
- Jesus is also real and genuine shepherd, who fulfills the OT prophecies, contrasting himself with the false, bad shepherd leaders of Israel.
 - So the True and the Real and the Genuine Shepherd Messiah is here!

Four Aspects of Jesus as the Good Shepherd from John 10

1. He **Knows** (4, 14-16).

- The sheep know the voice of the shepherd.
- Jesus knows the sheep, just as the Father knows him (intimately, perfectly in love, this is a close relationship!)
- Other sheep, they know his voice, one flock and one shepherd (desires a relationship and thus gathers them from all nations)!

2. He **Leads** (3-4).

- Calls by name (relationship), they listen and follow, and he leads them out to pasture.
- “He goes before them” great leading phrase! (they follow and know).

3. He **Protects** (12-13).

- He is always with them, protecting them from danger.
 - Thief/robber, stranger, wolf.
- Contrast to the hired hand, who flees at danger, because “he cares nothing”
- Jesus protects because he cares for the sheep.
- In protecting, he provides for them in safety, Jesus provides life, life abundantly (10).

4. He **Saves** (11, 15, 17-18).

- This is the emphasis of the passage and the difference between human shepherds and Jesus, as the Good Shepherd. He saves... by sacrifice!
 - Saves 3x, Sacrifice 4x.
- Intentional Sacrifice, “I lay it down.” Sacrificial language!
- Lays down life “FOR” the sheep (11). Little word, big meaning.
 - On their behalf! Speaks to this sacrifice.
 - This construction is used in John - always used in a sacrificial context. Uses this construction about the death of Jesus (6:51), death of Peter “I’ll lay down my life for you!” (13:37), of a man prepared to die to save a friend (15:13).
 - And 2x, “Take it up again” has the power of resurrection!
 - All of this is the “charge of the Father” (end of verse 18)... to lay down, to take up – it is his will and comes by his giving the Son authority.
- He loves the sheep, cares for them – so much, he is willing to die to save them!

By his death they are saved! This was anticipated in OT.

Zechariah 13:7–9

⁷ “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,” declares the Lord of hosts. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”

- Was quoted when disciples fled after Jesus’ arrest, anticipates the death of Messiah, calls him the “shepherd.”

Isaiah 53:6

“We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.”

- **Saved by Sacrifice!**
- This is a substitutionary atonement, he took our sins and was sacrificed as he shed his blood... then raised.
- I am the good shepherd gets at the very core of the gospel!

Old Testament Background – Shepherd

Two leaders in the OT that point to Jesus as the Shepherd

1. Moses (Ps 77:20 and Is 63:11-14)

- God led flock by Moses. Through Moses’ shepherd-leadership, God did great things – parted the waters by Moses’ arm, led, presence, rest...to make a glorious name!

2. David (Ps 78:72 and 1 Sam 17:34-37)

- God chose David, a shepherd to shepherd the nation.
 - As a shepherd he risked his life, protected the sheep (1 Sam 17)
- He was a shepherd to his people.
 - With an upright heart he shepherded them.
 - Guided them with his skillful hand.
- David’s shepherd-leadership as king, anticipates greater David, a king in his line!

Ezekiel 37:24

²⁴ “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.

- And David wrote the beautiful words of **Psalm 23**

Shepherding in the New Testament and in the New Creation

1. Jesus shepherds and oversees our souls.

1 Peter 2:25

“For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

- We stray like sheep, but Jesus, the Great Shepherd, has called us and we have returned to him as sheep to a shepherd who hear his voice.
- He is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.
 - Relational, lead/guide/protect our eternal souls, gives us eternal life, no snatch.
 - He eternally shepherds our souls by giving eternal life!

2. Jesus provides shepherd-leaders for his flock

Jeremiah 3:15

“ ‘And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.’ ”

- Church leaders are under shepherds after God’s heart, promised leaders and given to the church.

Acts 20:28

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

- They follow the Good Shepherd, called to lead, protect, and provide for the flock of God.
- Jesus bought the church, the flock with his blood, sacrifice – church is special, care well!

3. Jesus equips the sheep to do his will, pleasing him as they grow

Hebrews 13:20–21

²⁰ “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

- Jesus is the Great Shepherd of us, the sheep. Who has shed his blood.
- He equips us to do his pleasing will.
- He is dedicated to our growth and sanctification, to him be glory!

4. Jesus shepherds his people forever in the New Creation

New Creation - Revelation 7:16–17

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

- Healed! Guide/provide!
- In the end, we will be saved in eternal glory, experience the guidance and care of the Lamb, who is our shepherd!
- Through eternity, this is a main image/metaphor!
- **Isaiah 40:11** – “God tends his flock like a shepherd, he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.”

Summary: Look at John 10:27-30 – Knows, Leads, Protects, Saves.

BIG IDEA

Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.

Applications

Remember, we’re sheep! We are needy. We stray, we are attacked, we get anxious and scared, we need direction!!

- Jesus knows us when we stray.
- Jesus protects us when we face danger and spiritual attack.
- Jesus provides for us when we get scared and anxious.
- Jesus leads us when we need direction.

So, when we stray, when we get scared and anxious, when we face danger and attack, when we need direction – Jesus protects, provides, and guides.

Applications Questions

1. Our applications for today are,
 - Jesus knows us when we stray.

- Jesus protects us when we face danger and spiritual attack.
- Jesus provides for us when we get scared and anxious.
- Jesus leads us when we need direction.

Are you going through any of these struggles? How can you seek Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as he relates to your struggle?

Growth Project

Read Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Ezekiel 34:17-31; Micah 5:2-5 (Ps 23 if needed)

- What are the human shepherds like and what does God think about it?
- What do we learn about God's character and what does he do to help?
- What do we learn about Jesus? How does this passage anticipate the Good Shepherd?

THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

*"I am the **Door** of the sheep; if anyone enters by Me,
he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."*

John 10:9

- Jesus, the Door for the sheep, is our salvation, security, sustenance, and satisfaction. He provides the only way to eternal life.
- So when we are in danger, he gives us protection and peace. He sustains us spiritually through his Word and provides for our needs. And when our hearts wander, he satisfies our deepest longings now and promises to satisfy us with future abundance in heaven.

In keeping with this shepherding metaphor, Jesus says,

"I am the door of the sheep." (John 10:7)

What is a "door" in ancient shepherding?

- The sheepfold had one entrance/exit of the sheepfold.
- That is the door for the sheep. Sometimes called the gate.

...So we're the sheep, Jesus is the door for... us!

- It is an image about his blessings for us, his sheep.
- What our identity is as sheep trusting in him, our Door.

Then, what does it mean that Jesus is our Door?

- It means **FOUR** things, benefits for us.

Focusing on 9-10....“I am the door of the sheep; if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

- **As we trust Jesus the Door for the sheep** (we listen & follow), four blessings!

Old Testament Background: Four Blessings

- connection to Jesus and their connection to Jesus as the Door

1. **We are Saved.** We “will be saved (eternal life).” (John 10:9a, 10,) “have life”

- Our problem of sin, separation from God’s presence goes all the way back to the garden.
- After sinning, Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden of Eden.
- Cherubim guarded the way, so no one could enter the door to paradise.
- Flaming sword at entrance. Door to God’s full presence is closed!!

But notice **Psalms 118:19-24**, (Messianic Psalm) – talking of Jesus.

“¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰ **This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.** ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³ This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

- Gates/door of righteousness – only righteous enter through it.
- You have answered me, become my salvation.
- Talking of Jesus is that salvation – he is the gate and the stone the builders rejected, the cornerstone.
- In Christ we have this righteousness, this salvation to enter the gates/door to salvation.

Door in NT, entrance to kingdom (salvation for eternal life)

Matthew 7:7

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:13–14 – two gates, ender narrow for salvation

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Point #1 – Jesus, as the door, gives us entry into eternal salvation—he provides the only way to eternal life through faith.

2. We are Secure. We, “will go in and out.” (John 10:9b)

Deut 28:1-6 - (Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience)

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. ³ **Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.** ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ **Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.**”

- **Going in and out – covenant terminology**, of great blessing, security wherever you go, coming in, going out... you will be blessed and secure.
- So part of God's commitment to be with his people is that he will be with them wherever they go!

Shepherd leadership in OT has the image of,

- Taking sheep in and out, leading people in safety and security.
- Leadership that is leading, guiding, and protecting – they are safe with this leader.

Numbers 27:15–18 - New leader after Moses – Joshua

¹⁵ Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, ¹⁶ “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation ¹⁷ **who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in**, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.” ¹⁸ So the

Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him."

- Secure with Joshua – they conquered everywhere he went! Provided that security of a shepherd-leader.

Psalm 121:8

"The Lord will keep your **going out and your coming in** from this time forth and forevermore."

- Secure, protect – all of your ins and outs, travels and time at home, eternally!

Point #2 – Jesus, as the Door, gives us protection - he provides safety from dangers so that we can have peace.

3. We are **Sustained**. We will "find pasture." (John 10:9b)

Find Pasture – image of assurance of God's provision

Psalm 100:3

"Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

Psalm 23:2

"The Lord is my Shepherd... He makes me lie down in **green pastures**."

Ezekiel 34:11–15 – after speaking against all the faults of the bad shepherds, God steps in,

- Great passage describing the idea of pasture!

"¹² For thus says the Lord: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God."

- Rescued, searched for, gathered, bring them to own land.

- Image of their own land is a good, rich pasture for sheep.
- God as the Good Shepherd (vs bad ones) will provide abundance in their land.

Point #3 - Jesus gives us all that we need – we are spiritually fed on his Word. He provides for our daily needs and much more.

4. We are Satisfied. We will, “have life abundantly.” (John 10:10b)

- Satisfied now, and in the future.

A picture of this in the OT,

Psalm 16:5–11

“⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. ⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸ I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

- Isn't this a great OT picture of being abundantly satisfied in God?
- Satisfied in God's presence with us, is enough, brings joy and pleasure! (11)

Jesus says he came that they may have “life abundantly.” (John 10:10b)

This means abundant life now,
“Life”

- Being healthy, happy, having energy and vitality (LEX)
- It is the “result of faith in Christ, we have possession of life even in this world.” (BDAG)
- A life of abiding, a life of peace with God, a life of holiness and grace in Christ.

Life, “Abundantly”

- Marked by great quantity (LEX), being extraordinary in amount, beyond what is necessary (BDAG)
- So we are blessed with life to the full now as we walk with Jesus, our door and shepherd.
- But the phrase has an already-but-not-yet sense. We are also waiting for eternal abundance.
- So in addition, it means the abundant life **for all eternity**.

This eternal resting place of abundant life is foretold in the OT

Zechariah 9:16–17

“¹⁶ On that day the Lord their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. ¹⁷ For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.”

- “That day” (at the end), the Davidic shepherd judges wicked, saves people.
- Picture of salvation in abundance, people are his flock.
- Shine, great goodness of God. He will show his great beauty.
- There will be abundance of provisions.

Isaiah 60:11

“Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.”

- Image of the city of God, and the abundance of the nations bringing blessings in.
- Notice that the gates to God’s city and presence are **no longer shut!!**
 - Versus barred entrance to the garden in Genesis 3.
- Great prosperity! Blessings to the nations, worship of the nations.

Revelation 21:22–26 – the New Jerusalem, the gates are open!

“And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its **gates will never be shut** by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.”

- The glory of Jesus, the Lamb, is there.
- Gates never shut by day or night.
- Jesus is **the door** for the sheep, he’s the **gate that is open** because of his work on the cross and his work as a conquering king bringing total peace.

Point #4 – Jesus, as the Door, gives an abundant relationship with him – he satisfies our deepest needs now and will satisfy us with future abundance in heaven.

Review: Four benefits of this metaphor

1. **Saved.** We “will be saved.”
 - Eternal life, saved from condemnation.
2. **Secure.** We “will go in and out.”
 - Freedom of movement as we are protected, not scare, secure in him.
3. **Sustained.** We will “find pasture.”
 - Find provisions, food. God’s Word is our spiritual food.
4. **Satisfied.** We will “have life abundantly.”

BIG IDEA

Jesus, the Door for the sheep, is our salvation, security, sustenance, and satisfaction.

- Jesus gives us entry into eternal **salvation** - he provides the only way to eternal life.
- Jesus gives us protection - he provides **security** and safety from dangers so we might have peace.
- Jesus gives us all that we need, **sustenance** - we are spiritually fed on his Word. He provides for our daily needs and much more.
- Jesus gives an abundant relationship with him – he **satisfies** our deepest needs now and will satisfy us with future abundance in heaven.

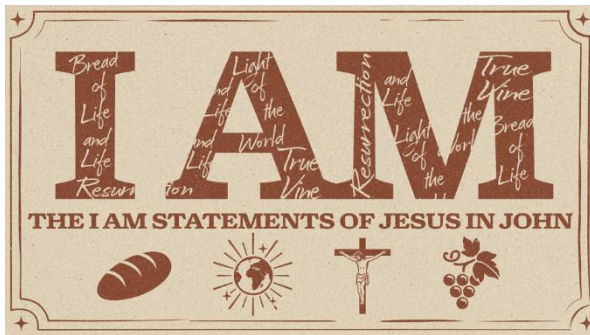
Application Questions

1. What are the thieves in your life, the dangers that you need Jesus’ protection from?
2. How can you feed on the good pasture of the Word of God this week? What is your plan to do this?
3. What robs you of being fully satisfied in Christ? What can you do to work on being more satisfied in Jesus?
4. What are you looking forward to in eternity, in the abundance of the new heavens and new earth – the new city of God, with doors open wide?

Growth Project

In light of what we have talked about with Jesus being the Good Shepherd and Door, read Psalm 23 and pray these themes about your life right now.

- Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.
- Jesus, the Door for the sheep, is our salvation, security, sustenance, and satisfaction.



Resurrection and Life

Week 4 – I Am's – 10/4/'26

Introduction - You can divide the book of John in two sections, book of signs (1-11), book of glory (12-21)

- Centered around seven signs, and seven I Am's.
- "sign"- a miracle by Jesus that displays that he is the Son of God, and eternal life for those who believe.

John is the book of sevens

- 7 witnesses to Jesus (John Baptist, Jesus & his works, the Father, Moses, the disciples, the Spirit, and John himself).
- We are told that the Father loves the Son, 7x in John.
- Feasts mentioned 7x.
- John focuses on 7 days at the start of Jesus' ministry, and focuses 7 events/teachings of Jesus' last week leading to the cross.
- 7 signs (water to wine, clearing temple (some have walking on water instead), healing official's son, healing an invalid, feeding five thousand, opening eyes of man born blind, raising Lazarus)
- 7 "I am" sayings (7 other I am sayings) bread of life, light of the world, door/gate, good shepherd, resurrection and life, way/truth/life, and the true vine.
- Today's theme: combines a sign (final one, Lazarus) and an I Am saying, "resurrection/life"!

In Matt 22:29-33, Jesus quoted Exodus 3,

- Jesus debating with the Sadducees who did not believe in a resurrection.

²⁹ But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead,

but of the living.”³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

- But Jesus said they were very mistaken, God is a God of resurrection, not of dead, but a God of the living!
- He is the great I Am – created people to be resurrected and live forever.
- And Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life!

THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

*I am the **Resurrection and the Life**. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”*

John 11:25

- Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, gives life to the dead and provides true spiritual life.
- So when we feel stuck, defeated, and spiritually stagnant, Jesus provides resurrection power to overcome death and the Devil. And He provides resurrection power to give life in abundance now and hope for the future.

Passage: John 11:17–27

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

The Resurrection is so central to Jesus’ message, without it, our faith is worthless, be pitied!

- Paul talks about that in 1 Cor 15.
- And Jesus’ resurrection was the first fruits, our resurrection will follow his!

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says,

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...”

Resurrection in the Old Testament

Quick Question - What Scriptures might Paul have in mind when he said Jesus was buried and raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures? What OT passages predict the resurrection of Jesus? That’s what we will consider today. A few quick examples.

- **Exodus 3**, burning bush, I Am, Jesus claimed this (Jn 8:58) and an aspect of the I Am is an eternal nature.
- **Ezekiel 34:11-14** – valley of dry bones, dead bones, breathed life, army!
- Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead (**Heb 11:9**)
- Job said, “⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God.” **Job 19:25–26**
 - He had a belief that after he would die, he would see his Redeemer in renewed fellowship, and be vindicated in a resurrected body.
- I want to look at two places (Jonah 2 and Psalm 16)

In Matthew 12:39–40, the people came to Jesus and wanted a sign,

“But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

- Jesus said, “Someone greater than Jonah is here.” (Mt. 12:42).
- Let’s look at parallels in the OT and how Jesus is greater.
- “Sign of Jonah” - is death for three days.

Question - As read, find parallels between Jonah’s words and experience, and Jesus. What passages can you point to from Jesus’ words and experience that show the parallels?

Jonah 2:1–10,

¹ Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying, “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. ³ For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.' ⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head ⁶ at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. ⁷ When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. ⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. ⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!" ¹⁰ And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

- Jonah in whale for three long days. Jesus was dead for three days.
 - "Cast deep, heart of seas" (3)..."waters closed in" (5).
- Jonah was saved from whale after three days, Jesus was resurrected after three days.
- Jonah called out in his distress (2), Jesus called out to God in his distress on the cross, "why forsaken... and it is finished."
- Jonah was "driven away from your sight" (4), Jesus was driven away from God's sight as the scapegoat in Lv 19 – "driven out of camp into wilderness"
- Yet Jonah said "I will again look upon your temple," Jesus predicted on many occasions that he would rise again, "destroy this temple and in three days I will rise it up." (John 2:19)...his body would die, and be raised in three days.
- Jonah's life was spared "from the pit," (6), after three days, Jesus' life was spared from the pit of death.
- Jonah "hoped in God's steadfast love" (8), Jesus was perfectly loved by the Father and trusted in God's will, though struggled "if this cup...not my will but yours" Knew that the Father loved him and that he loved the Father and this was the plan to provide salvation.
- Quotes Scripture.

A Good summary quote:

"Using the familiar story of Jonah, Jesus was drawing his listeners a picture that would show them exactly what he came to do - in fact, the greatest work he would do. As Jonah went down into the pit of death, so Jesus would descend into the pit of death. And just as the fish would not contain Jonah and coughed him up, so the grave would not contain Jesus. Death's claim on Jesus would have a limit of three days. Jesus gave us the sign of Jonah by his resurrection, the sign of miraculous, unstoppable life and absolute authority over death." (Nancy Guthrie)

Isiah foretold this resurrection of the Messiah who was sacrificed for our sins!

- Isaiah 53:10-12

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, **he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.** ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.”

- Messiah – he poured out soul to death, bore sin of many... but it also says he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days... spiritual offspring through resurrection, Jesus will be eternally prolonged in days!
- Jonah said, “salvation belongs to the Lord!” Jesus provided salvation to all who put their trust in him as he conquered death and offers life as, “the Resurrection and the Life!”

Psalm 16, another powerful passage about Jesus as the Resurrection and Life

In what ways is this Psalm fulfilled in Jesus? List parallels of this Psalm and with the words and life of Jesus.

Psalm 16

¹ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. ² I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” ³ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. ⁴ The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. ⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. ⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸ I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- Jesus, though he died, was “preserved” by the Father as he took refuge in him.
- Jesus delights in his people, the bride, laid down his life “excellent ones, delight”
- “Beautiful inheritance” (5) Jesus will inherit all things, we are co-heirs. Rom 8.

- Jesus, though he died, had “flesh that was secure” (9) as he was raised on the third day.
- Jesus did go to the place of the dead, “Sheol” but he was not abandoned to stay dead, he did not see “corruption” but was raised on the third day. (10)
- Jesus will live forever in this resurrected body “pleasures forevermore” (11)
- Quoted in Acts 13, David’s body saw corruption, Jesus did not, raised up!

Psalm 16:9-11 – not let his holy one see decay, quoted in Acts 13:30-34

Acts 13:30–37, ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. ³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, “ ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you.’ (Ps 2:7) ³⁴ And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, “ ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ (Is 55:3) ³⁵ **Therefore he says also in another psalm, “ ‘You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’ (Ps 16:10)** ³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, ³⁷ but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.”

- The resurrection of Jesus directly fulfilled the prophecy in Psalm 16:10!

BIG Idea

Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, gives life to the dead and provides true spiritual life. So when we feel stuck, defeated, and spiritually stagnant, Jesus provides *resurrection* power to overcome death and the Devil. And He provides resurrection power to give *life* in abundance now and hope for the future.

Application

What does this look like in our lives? What difference does this I am of Jesus make?

Think back to Mary and Martha ...and how Jesus delayed coming and their brother died... if you would have come earlier!!

“The discipline of delay is one of the hardest lessons we must learn, as followers of Jesus, especially when it is God who does the delaying... The more deeply we know and walk with Jesus, the more readily we accept God’s glory as our greatest good, even when it feels like such a momentary bad. As “the resurrection and the life,” Jesus is always writing better stories than we could ever pen. Martha and Mary would soon find this to be true. “ (Scotty Smith, *Gospel Transformation Bible*)

- They were frustrated and disappointed with Jesus' timing. Didn't understand!
- But his plan in their waiting... to show them his glory – their greatest good and mine,
- He would show them he is the “Resurrection and the life” by raising Lazarus.

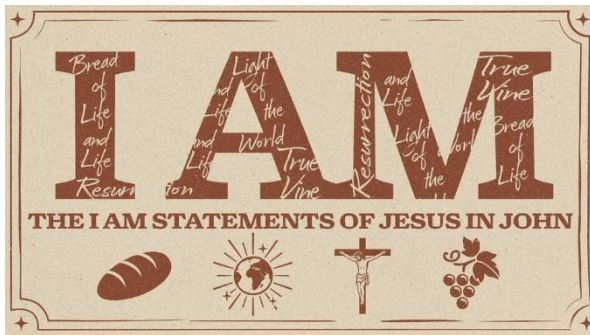
So how about you? What difference does the fact that Jesus is the Resurrection and Life make in your life?

Application Questions

1. Our big idea today is, “The I am, Jesus, gives life to the dead and he provides true spiritual life. When we feel stuck, defeated, and spiritually stagnant... Jesus provides resurrection power to overcome death and the Devil. And Jesus provides resurrection power to give life in abundance now and hope in the future.” Are there any areas in your life now where you feel stuck, defeated, or spiritually stagnant? How can what we learned in this lesson help you in your current situation?
2. Read this quote from Greg Matte, “He is the Resurrection and the Life. That gives us freedom to live life with purpose and know that because of Jesus, death does not have the last say. Jesus' declaration is our foundation. Everything changes... Jesus conquered death completely and for all time on the cross. A heart that truly understands the magnitude of who Jesus is – the Resurrection and the Life – cannot help live differently with such a sure foundation.” Reflect on this quote, what type of people ought we to be if this is true about Jesus?

Growth Project

- Take time to do deeper study of Jonah 2 and Psalm 16. What are some important or meaningful parallels to Jesus? What are some parallels to where you are at in life right now?



The Way, Truth, & Life

Week 5 – I Am's – 10/11/26

THE WAY, TRUTH, & LIFE

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

- Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life, is the only road to true, eternal life. As the Way, he is the path to heaven and to a relationship with God. As the Truth, he embodies what is true. As the life, Jesus is eternal life.
- So, when we feel lost or confused, in need of direction and assurance, Jesus shows us the ways of God and the path to eternal life. He embodies truth, so we can trust his Word when we need direction. Jesus is eternal life - he provides an abundant relationship with God today and an eternal future in heaven.

QUESTION (for pairs/triads) - Think of the topics of Way, Truth, and Life in Scripture. When you think of these topics, what comes to mind? Try to think of verses, metaphors, or people...anything important that comes to mind.

WAY? (priest as mediator, way through Red Sea, Ps. 1 walk not in way of wicked)

John 10:9

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." (salvation)

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Acts 4:12

¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 9:2; 22:4

- Jesus’ followers became known as the Way (Acts 9:2; 22:4)
- Christians are described as **belonging to the Way** (Gk. *hodos*, “road, highway, way of life”), meaning either the way of salvation (16:17; cf. Jesus’ teachings in Matt. 7:14; John 14:6) or the true way of life in relation to God (cf. Acts 18:25–26; cf. Ps. 1:1, 6; 27:11). ESVSB

1 Timothy 2:5

⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

John 10:9

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Ephesians 2:18

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

TRUTH? (Jesus as Word – truth of God flesh, Bereans – examined...Paul said was true) **John 1:9** “the true light”

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

LIFE? (God breaths life – man, valley of dry bones; shalom, peaceful life; new birth)

John 1:4

⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”

Text, John 14:1-7

- **Context** – Jesus and his disciples in upper room at the Last Supper, night before the cross. Having the Passover meal together.
- This text is part of the upper room discourse, Jesus’ last words for his disciples before going to the cross.

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Spoken on the eve of the crucifixion!

- We sometimes forget this, but Jesus is about to die! What will disciples do?
- These words are to be reassuring that they are secure, they believe and will experience life, no matter what happens.
- They have trusted in Jesus, the W T L ! But there are hard times ahead!

He’s comforting them, He is going away to heaven to prepare a place for them.

- Promises to come again and take them to the place he prepares.
- He says you know the way to this place, to heaven.
- Thomas, how can we know the way? (to heaven)
- Jesus answers I am the Way T L, no one comes to Father, gets to heaven without going through Jesus.
- So Jesus is the Way to heaven, the path and the goal to have eternal life in heaven.

Context after – Jesus says from now on you do know the Father and have seen the Father... and verse 9, “whoever has seen me has seen the Father”

- So, Jesus is the only “way” to know the Father and have a relationship with him!

Let’s look at the meaning of each of our three phrases:

The Way

- “Walk in the way” it says in Proverbs.
- So, way can mean a course of behavior, a way or direction of life (BDAG).
- Also, remember in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, enter through the narrow gate, take the narrow way – for the way to destruction is broad. Jesus said, “the way is hard that leads to life and those who find it are few.”
- So “way” also a road leading to a certain point (LEX), the path going toward the goal. That’s Jesus! The path and the goal.

The Truth

- Truth is a “quality,” truth, “conforms to reality, often with the implication of dependability” its reliable (LEX).
- Truth is the “content” of what is true, what is ultimate reality. (BDAG)
- This true, truth is mediated through Jesus. He mediates truth, it comes through him to us. **John 1:17** says, “truth came through Jesus.”
- And here in our passage, not only mediates, Jesus calls himself truth.
- He himself is the truth. He embodies it!!

The Life

- Life is a “state – a condition of living, of being alive”... living with ultimate “healthiness, energy, vitality, etc.” (LEX)
- This life is God! God is life, he gives life, breaths the breath of life. And Jesus is life and gives life!
- **John 5:26**, “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.”
 - Jesus received life from God, and Jesus has “life in himself!”

Let’s look at our phrases in relation to the Old Testament – it’s topics and symbols

1. The **Prophet** corresponds with Jesus as the **Truth**
A prophet spoke the words of God and told truth to Israel. Jesus is the ultimate Prophet; he is the Word of God and speaks truth. He’s the truth in flesh.
2. The **Priest** corresponds with Jesus as the **Way**
A priest had access to God’s presence and performed sacrifices. The way to atonement was through the priests. Jesus, as the Great High Priest, sacrificed himself, atoned for our sins, so that the way to God’s presence could be open.
3. The **King** corresponds with Jesus as the **Life**

A king provided abundant life for his people, a life of peace and protection. Jesus, as the ultimate King of Kings, provides life for us, peace with God and protection against all evil.

Summary Quote

“Jesus, as the Way, Truth, and the Life, fulfills the main offices in the Old Testament of Prophet, Priest, and King.” (Gospel Transformation Bible)

Additionally, Jesus as the Way, Truth, and **Life fulfills Old Testament symbols, teachings, and promises.** We'll talk about three of these.

(Köstenberger – mentioned a few, but wanted to flesh these ideas out a bit)

1. Jesus as the “Way” fulfills Old Testament Symbols of **Access to God.**

He fulfills symbols such as the curtain in the temple, the priesthood, and the sacrifices.

- For example, the curtain in the temple symbolized access to God's presence. Only the High Priest could go in once per year. But this curtain was torn in two because of the cross!
- We can now have access to God through Jesus, the Way to God has opened up! We can boldly approach his throne with confidence to find mercy and grace in our time of need (**Heb. 4:16**).

2. Jesus as the “Truth” fulfills Old Testament **Teachings.**

Psalm 119:142 says, “your law is true.” And **Psalm 33:4** says, “for the Word of the Lord is right and true: he is faithful in all he does.” (NIV).

- Jesus is God's faithful, true Word made incarnate. Jesus is also faithful in all he does. Faithful to fulfill the Old Testament teachings in truth. Jesus said, “if you hold to my teaching, then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (**John 8:32**).
- Furthermore, Jesus said that he came, not to abolish the law, but to fulfill the law. He fulfills all that the truths and teaching of what the Old Testament pointed toward in the Messiah!
- Remember what Jesus spoke to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus? He opened all the Scriptures to them and showed Moses to the Prophets what was taught concerning himself.
- Jesus also fulfilled prophetic teachings and predictions. A conservative estimate is that, Jesus fulfilled at least 300 prophecies in his earthly ministry (answers.org). In Jesus, prophecies came true!

3. Jesus as the “Life” fulfills Old Testament **Promises of Eternal Life.**

- **Psalm 16:11** promises, “You have made known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Jesus fulfills this promise by providing the way to eternal life through faith in his atoning sacrifice.
- **Proverbs 4:20-22** says that God’s words are, “life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.” Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, who will resurrect our flesh, bring full healing to our bodies in heaven. Also, Jesus’ words are the eternal life to those who find them.

So, **Jesus** as the Way, Truth, and Life fulfills Old Testament symbols, teachings, and promises.

I am the Way, Truth, and Life. What a wonderful, clear statement of who Jesus is!

- A phrase loaded with meaning, jam-packed with precious truth.

So, we have the Way, Truth, Life... notice those phrases as they relate to one another in light of the context of John 14.

- Looking at context, it seems Jesus is emphasizing the first idea, he is the Way.
- Thomas’ question was about knowing the **way** and Jesus’ answer was about the Way – then he says I am...WTL and then talks about the way again, “no one comes to the Father except through me” – he’s the only Way to the Father.
- So, the Way is the “principle theme,” (Carson) main predicate, the main statement.
- The Truth and Life “support” the Way, “clarify” the Way, “spell out the benefits” of the Way.
- Jesus is the Way for someone to come to God, because he embodies the truth of God and he is the eternal life of God.

All three phrases are important, but I wanted to take the rest of our time to look at the Way and dive into some OT passages related to it.

So, with this in mind, let’s look at some of the Old Testament Background of Way.

- Will focus on two ideas:

1. The Way to **Zion**

Isaiah 35:8–10 (ESV)

“And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even

if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

How does this passage describe “the Way?” What are the benefits and blessings in this passage? How is this passage fulfilled in Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life?

- Given to the exiles, sorrowful and looking for a brighter future.
- The Way is so clearly marked, even fools stay on it!
- The way is safe, secure, joyful, pure, holy. Of Holiness.
- It is for the redeemed, ransomed – fulfilled in Christ’s salvation. Jesus is our Way of Holiness as the WTL. He makes us holy by his blood, we are redeemed... **Isa 40:3**, voice in wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord!
- The coming back to the land foreshadows coming to the heavenly Jerusalem (Heb 12:22-24 – come to Mt Zion, heavenly Jerusalem; Rev 21:4) ESVSB

Isaiah 62:10–12 (ESV)

“Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

How does this passage describe “the Way?” What are the benefits and blessings in this passage? How is this passage fulfilled in Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life?

- Hope for exiles, comfort for those looking for restoration back to land.
- Called to go through gates, prepare way, build up the highway, signal nations.
- Call is that the way is made clear and built up to go to Zion, “a City Not Forsaken” and to be saved!
- Way of salvation, way of reward. “Recompense” – fruit of God’s work.
- Way of a Holy People, way of a Redeemed people, Sought out by God, Not Forsaken.
- Jesus is ultimate fulfillment of these themes for Israel.
- Jesus is this ultimate way for us, way of salvation, reward, and recompense!
- Jesus is the fruit of God’s work offered for us, to make us a Holy people. Jesus our way of redemption that we might be called the Redeemed of the Lord.

- **1 Peter 2:9–10** - Many of these themes apply to us!
 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (Redemption from sins!)

2. The Way into God’s **Presence** – (the Holy of Holies - through the Curtain)

Hebrews 10:19–22 (ESV)

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the **new and living way** that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

(So let us hold fast, not give up meeting together, 23-25)

How does Jesus, the Way (John 14:6), provide a new and living way? How does this compare and contrast with the Old Testament holy places? Describe the blessings of this passage.

- In the OT, the way to God was practically closed. Access to God’s presence hidden behind a curtain. Only the High Priest could go once a year.
- Yet today, there is a major difference!
- But now, a “new and living way through the curtain was opened” by Jesus!
 - **Matt 27:50-51** – “the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” Symbolizing the access we have through Christ.
- And Jesus “is the great high priest.” Sacrificed his life once-for-all to open the way to God. His blood gives us the confidence to enter holy places, to have peace with God, to fully enjoy his presence.
- “We have confidence to enter” by “the blood of Jesus” (10:19)
- Benefits/blessings: confidence in approaching God, clean hearts/consciences/ bodies.

Summary quote: William MacDonald says,

“This lovely verse makes it clear that the Lord Jesus Christ is Himself the way to heaven. He does not merely show the way; he **IS** the Way. Salvation is a Person.”

BIG IDEA

Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life, is the only road to true, eternal life. As the Way, he is the path to heaven and to a relationship with God. As the Truth, he embodies what is true. As the life, Jesus is eternal life.

So, when we feel lost or confused, in need of direction and assurance, Jesus shows us the ways of God and the path to eternal life. He embodies truth, so we can trust his Word when we need direction. Jesus is eternal life. He provides an abundant relationship with God and an eternal future in heaven.

Application Time

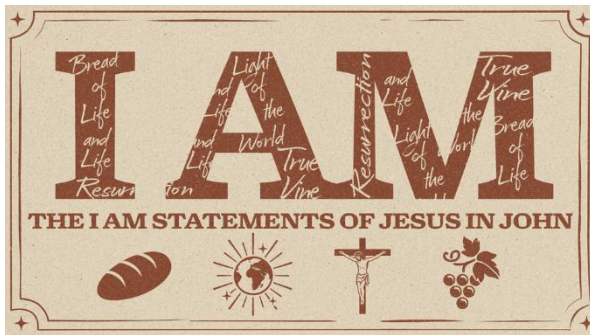
So, what does this look like in our lives? What difference does this “I Am” of Jesus make?

If time – what stood out to you in this lesson as especially meaningful or important?

1. Are there non-believers in your life that need to hear the message of this lesson? How can you pray? How might you reach out?
2. Since Jesus is the Truth, how can you lean on his word right now in an area of your life where you need direction?
3. How can you praise Jesus for the abundant life you have in him now and as you look toward your eternal future? Write out your prayer of praise.

Growth Project

- Take time to do deeper study on John 14:1-14. List what you learn about Jesus, the Father, and find all the promises embedded in this passage.



The True Vine

Week 6 – I Am's – 10/18/26

THE TRUE VINE

*I am the **True Vine**, and my Father is the vinedresser.*

John 15:1

- Jesus, the True Vine, provides true, genuine nourishment. He provides spiritual sustenance and power.
- So when we feel spiritually dry, weary, and unconnected, Jesus gives us the strength to thrive and the power to be fruitful Christians, for we cannot bear fruit apart from him.

So what does the vine metaphor mean?

- This passage is part of the extended teaching time with his disciples before crucified (Jn 13-17).
- Using a familiar illustration from agriculture. Vineyard and fruit – grapes.
- Some say Jesus was walking in a vineyard with his disciples outside city!
- This is an, “extended” metaphor, (some say it is more of a parable) – to make a main point, tip – to not get too wrapped up in each little detail.

What are the major elements of the metaphor?

1. Jesus is **The Vine**

- He is the **source** of our spiritual strength and power. We rely on him.
- Apart from him we can do nothing (4-5). ..we cannot bear fruit.
- He is also the **pattern** for us. We look to how he loved and abided in the Father, to show us the way.
- “I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.” (10)
- His love and dependence on Father is the pattern for our abiding in him.
- **As the source & pattern...we are dependent** on him, we live Christian life in his power/strength not our own. Just as a branch is connected to vine.

2. **The Father** is the Vinedresser

- **Vinedresser** – The job was to tend to the vine—was to clean, and prune.
- Purpose of **cleaning** was to lift the branches off ground—affix them so they could grow/thrive.
- Purpose of **pruning** was to take off the unfruitful branches so that the vine would produce more lasting, vibrant fruit.

3. Believers (Jesus' followers) are **the Branches** (us)

- We are to abide in him and his love, doing his will – and so we will bear fruit, resulting in God's glory and our full joy.

So what does this metaphor mean?

- Abiding is Essential to the Christian life.
- **Point** - this metaphor is teaching the importance of abiding in Jesus in order to bear fruit.
- A key word is, "True," Vine... this sets up an intentional contrast with Israel.

Old Testament Background – Passages on the Vine/Vineyard

We will consider the metaphor,

1. In the Prophets.
2. In the Vineyard Songs of Isaiah.
3. In Psalm 80.

First, The Vineyard metaphor in the Prophets

Ezekiel 15:2–6

² "Son of man [*God talking to Ezekiel*], how does the wood of the vine surpass any wood, the vine branch that is among the trees of the forest? ³ Is wood taken from it to make anything? Do people take a peg from it to hang any vessel on it? ⁴ Behold, it is given to the fire for fuel. When the fire has consumed both ends of it, and the middle of it is charred, is it useful for anything? ⁵ Behold, when it was whole, it was used for nothing. How much less, when the fire has consumed it and it is charred, can it ever be used for anything! ⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord God: Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so have I given up the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- Israel is a vine without fruit, only good for burning.

- Pronouncement of judgment on Jerusalem's inhabitants – it is compared to wood of the vine that is dry and not useful for anything but to be given for fuel to the fire.
- Why did this happen? To show them God's name, he is the Lord.
 - They will know that I am the Lord who will "set his face against them" and desolate the land because of their unfaithfulness (7-8).

Jeremiah 2:21 – God talking to Israel

"Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?"

- God planted it pure.
 - They turned it wild, degenerate.
- "God **planted** Israel in the Promised Land (Ex. 15:17) out of **pure seed**.
- Yet Israel has become a **wild vine** that bears only putrid fruit...
- The Septuagint [Greek version of Hebrew OT] of this verse reads, "Yet I planted you a fruitful vine, all true."
 - This probably is the background for Jesus' words in John 15:1, "the true vine": he claims to embody the genuine people of God, unlike the Israelites of Isaiah's day." (ESVSB)
- **So this** vine imagery is used to describe God's people (see 8:13; Isaiah 5; Ezek. 15:1–8; Hos. 10:1).
 - God says that he planted Israel as "a choice vine," yet his people have become "a wild vine."
 - Israel was called to bless the nations with the blessing they themselves had received (Gen. 12:1–3), yet they proved consistently fruitless in this calling.
 - Unfaithfulness and idolatry mean that Israel is worthy only to be destroyed. Thus, Judah is a wild, degenerate vine.
- **Quote**, "In Jesus, however, this tragic history of fruitlessness is wonderfully reversed. Jesus declared himself to be the true Vine, in union with whom fruitless and faltering men and women can once more be fruitful (John 15:1–8). Israel failed to be the "firstfruits" (Jer. 2:3) they were called to be, but Jesus himself has become the firstfruits of all those united to him by faith (1 Cor. 15:20–23). Acknowledging the way we too have "turned degenerate," and looking to Christ and being united to him by faith, we receive the benefits of Christ's work. (GTB)

Jeremiah 12:10-13

¹⁰ Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard; they have trampled down my portion; they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. ¹¹ They have made it a desolation; desolate, it mourns to me. The whole land is made desolate, but no man lays it to heart. ¹² Upon all the bare heights in the desert destroyers have come, for the sword of the LORD devours from one end of the land to the other; no flesh has peace. ¹³ They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns; they have tired themselves out but profit nothing. They shall be ashamed of their harvests because of the fierce anger of the LORD.”

- Many kings and leaders of other countries have attacked and destroyed Israel. Evil neighbors of other countries.
- Yet it is the hand of the Lord that did this, “I have forsaken my house” (7) “sword of the Lord devours” (12) “fierce anger” (13). Judgment of God.

Hosea 10:1-2

¹ Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars. ² Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The Lord will break down their altars and destroy their pillars.

- Speaking of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- They set up idol worship in Northern kingdom, Israel. Altars in the capitol cities.
- The context - The calf, the idol will be carried to Assyria (6), and Israel will be put to shame.

The Vine Metaphor in the “Vineyard Songs” in Isaiah, two of them.

Vineyard Song 1 - Isaiah 5:1-7

“Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall

not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!"

- God did everything to provide for these vines.
- But they only produced wild grapes – good for nothing, no fruit.
- So God abandoned the care of the vineyard (5-6). "Make it a waste" Judgment.
- **This Passage:** Symbolizes God's care, love and... Israel's rebellion and rejection of God – and the consequence of exile.

Vineyard Song 2 - Isaiah 27:2–6

- Focus is on promises of God, whereas Isaiah 5 focuses on the consequences of sin.

² In that day, "A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! ³ I, the Lord, am its keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day; ⁴ I have no wrath. Would that I had thorns and briers to battle! I would march against them, I would burn them up together. ⁵ Or let them lay hold of my protection, let them make peace with me, let them make peace with me." ⁶ In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit."

- Note God's loving care, his desire for peace with his people.
- This is a promise of better days to come after all the judgment – whole world will be filled with fruit (6).
- How is this fulfilled?
- Points toward Christ and his work on the cross to bless all nations through the gospel... the people of God in the NT are to make disciples of all nations.

➤ So we've looked at metaphor in prophets, Isaiah's vineyard songs, and finally

The Vineyard Metaphor in Psalm 80

Psalm 80:7–18

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved! ⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. ⁹ You cleared

the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.¹¹ It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

- This passage is a prayer, a plea for restoration for the people, for salvation.
- Reflects on how God did all this – brought Israel out of Egypt, drove out nations and planted Israel in the land.
 - He cleared ground, filled land, shade, branches to river.
- Set it all up for success... Then asks, why have you done this, walls broken down?

¹² Why then have you [*God*] broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? ¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. ¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, ¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁶ They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

- Left it unprotected so that the vine is eaten by passersby and wild boars!
- This Psalm is pleading that the Lord would look down and have regard for his vine, his people!
- Israel has been planted, is the son of God whom he has made strong.
- And it is a prayer that God would judge those nations that have destroyed Israel (16).

¹⁷ But let your hand be on the ‘man of your right hand,’ the ‘son of man’ whom you have made strong for yourself! ¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!”

- There’s a desire to remain true to the Lord, calling on his name, asking for life!
- The immediate context refers to Israel and its king.
- But the continuing context is that it refers to the “son of man” made strong for God. And who is the ultimate Son of Man?
- Title Jesus loved to use about himself
- About this Jesus quoted, Ps 110:1, God said, “sit at my right hand (Jesus) until I make your enemies my footstool.”
- Heb 1:3 says about Jesus, “after providing purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high.”

- Hebrews 10:12, “Christ offered himself as the sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.”
- “The **man at your right hand** is usually a king (110:1; cp. Is 45:1) who received divine appointment and approval.
- In the NT, Christ is seated at the right hand of God, identical with God in authority, power, and holiness (Heb 1:3).” (CSBSB)

Summary Quote by Bruce Ware,

“Such tender care by God for his prized plants makes their sin against grace all the more heinous. God was faithful to redeem his people in the past by transplanting them as a tender shoot from Egypt to the Promised Land (Ps. 80:8–11). Changing metaphors, Asaph assures that the Father will restore vitality to his favored “son” in the future (vv. 14–18). While Israel is the immediate referent, the Son of Man eventually fulfilled all righteousness for God’s people (Matt. 2:15).”

Point: Jesus is the answer to the plea “give us life!!” in Psalm 80.

- He was the sacrifice, defeated sin and death on our behalf that we might have eternal life and peace with God. (Rom 5:1-2)

Some summary questions and answers, now that we have read these OT passages

1. How did Israel fail to be the true vine? What are the consequences of this failure?
 - Turned degenerate, went after other gods, heart became false, became prideful when prosperous.
 - Destroyed by fire, lamentation, other nations overcame them, exile.
2. What do we learn about God from these verses?
 - He is watching and taking account.
 - He sends other nations to judge.
 - He’s just and jealous for his name.
 - He disciplines his people
 - He set them up for success and gave grace and blessings.
3. How has Jesus, the True Vine, succeeded where Israel failed? In other words, how has Jesus fulfilled this Old Testament metaphor?
 - Great promise in Isaiah 27:6 – whole world filled with fruit of blessings.
 - Jesus obeyed, loved God fully – Israel did not.

- Jesus is the vine that remained true to God – Israel did not remain true to the Lord.

Point: Jesus is saying he is the true vine, the Israel of the OT, he succeeded where Israel failed and has opened up a way of “peace” with God the gardener, for all people who trust him!

So how can we apply these truths this morning to our lives?

What does Jesus want us to do? 3 main things, but all connected

1. **Abide** in Jesus (4)

- Main command of passage.
- This word used 11x in John 15. Don't use is much, “humble abode”
- It is translated “remain” “continue” “dwell” “remain in union” “ABIDE”
- BDAG, “an inward enduring personal communion”
- **Union** – connected to vine AND **Communion** – an enduring, life-giving relationship.
- Live in him and let him live in you, make your home in his presence.

2. Bear Much Fruit (8)

- Some see a progression... believers bear “fruit” (2a)
 - The God prunes them and they bear – “more fruit” (2b)
 - As they abide in him/he in them, mature, “much fruit” (5).
- What is the fruit? ... **Actually a lot of different answers proposed.**
 - Witness to the world (16, 27); disciples (disciples make other disciples); new converts, love, good character (like fruit of the Spirit).
- Might be broader than those specific answers – contextually fruit encompasses product of effective prayer in Jesus name (10), obedience to his commands (10), experiencing Jesus' joy (11), love for one another (v12) and witness to the world (16).
- **D.A. Carson** – “the fruit is nothing less than the outcome of persevering dependence on the vine, driven by faith, embracing all of the believer's life and the product of his witness.”

- **ESV SB – (Köstenberger)** “the fruit is an image for good results coming from the life of a believer, probably in terms of bringing benefit to the lives of others and advancing the work of God in the world.”

3. Abide in **Christ's Love** (9) –

...which is keeping Jesus commandments (10)

- Loving Jesus, living in a love relationship with him is linked with doing his will, following his desires for your life, keeping his commands.
- Look to Jesus' example: Christ's love and obedience to the Father is our pattern/example.
- How did Jesus abide in the Father's love and obey the Father? (look at cross)
 - Obeyed fully “obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Php 2:8).
 - Obeyed joyfully “for the joy set before him endured the cross” (Heb 12:2).
 - Delighted to please the Father, loved to please him!

Back at text, What promises can we cling to in this passage?

- We have been made clean (3) - We have been forgiven, have his word!
- Christ lives in us (5) - We have him living in us, Spirit, relationship, secure!
- We bear fruit (4-5) - He uses us to bless others! He makes us more like Christ!
- Answered prayer (7) - He lets us see how he is working!
- The Father is glorified (8) - We please the Father, he is honored, we delight God's heart!
- Christ's love lives in us (9-10) - God shows his love in and through us to others
- Fullness of joy (11) - He gives us deep contentment, full Joy in relationship with him!

BIG IDEA

- Jesus fulfilled the OT metaphor of the vine. Jesus provides true, genuine nourishment—he provides spiritual sustenance and power.
- When we feel spiritually dry, weary, and unconnected, Jesus gives us the strength to thrive and the power to be fruitful Christians – for we cannot bear fruit apart from him.

Questions for Application

2. How specifically can you abide in Jesus more deeply and fully? List ideas and pick one of them to work on this week.

3. Look again at the list of promises in this passage in John 15:1-11. Do any of the promises stand out to you as particularly encouraging or meaningful? Why?

Series Review

Summary of the I Am Statements of Jesus in John

Statement of the meaning of the I Am, and a statement of how each I Am changes us.

1. **I Am The Bread of Life (John 6:35, 48)**

Jesus, as the Bread of Life, is God's provision of eternal life. Everyone who believes in him has eternal food, life forever. He is also the Word of God.

So when we need spiritual sustenance, he gives us the food of God, His Word, to provide spiritual direction and life. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled!

2. **I Am The Light of the World (John 8:12)**

Jesus, the Light of the World, gives us the light of life. We no longer have to live in darkness. He provides truth for us to walk in today and gives us hope for a bright future.

So when we feel in the dark, confused about life, or discouraged because of sin, Jesus provides truth, understanding, and his firm promises to lean on.

3. **I Am The Door (John 10:7)**

Jesus, the Door for the sheep, is our salvation, security, sustenance, and satisfaction. He provides the only way to eternal life.

So when we are in danger, he gives us protection and peace. He sustains us spiritually through his Word and provides for our needs. And when our hearts wander, he satisfies our deepest longings now and promises to satisfy us with future abundance in heaven.

4. **I Am The Good Shepherd (John 10:11-14)**

Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.

So when we stray, he knows us and what we need to get back on the path. When we face danger and spiritual attack, he protects us. When we get scared and anxious, he provides for us. And when we need direction, he guides us.

5. I Am The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, gives life to the dead and provides true spiritual life.

So when we feel stuck, defeated, and spiritually stagnant, Jesus provides resurrection power to overcome death and the Devil. And He provides resurrection power to give life in abundance now and hope for the future.

6. I Am The Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6)

Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life, is the only road to true, eternal life. As the Way, he is the path to heaven and to a relationship with God. As the Truth, he embodies what is true. As the life, Jesus is eternal life.

So when we feel lost or confused, in need of direction and assurance, Jesus shows us the ways of God and the path to eternal life. He embodies truth, so we can trust his Word when we need direction. Jesus is eternal life. He provides an abundant relationship with God today and an eternal future in heaven.

7. I Am The True Vine (John 15:1)

Jesus, the True Vine, provides true, genuine nourishment. He provides spiritual sustenance and power.

So when we feel spiritually dry, weary, and unconnected, Jesus gives us the strength to thrive and the power to be fruitful Christians, for we cannot bear fruit apart from him.