

Opening the last of the “I AM” statements.

## + The Seven “I am” Statements

1. “I am the bread of life” 6:35
2. “I am the light of the World” 8:12
3. “I am the Gate for the Sheep” 10:7
4. “I am the Good Shepherd” 10:11,14
5. “I am the Resurrection & the Life” 11:25
6. “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” 14:6
7. “I am the True Vine” 15:1

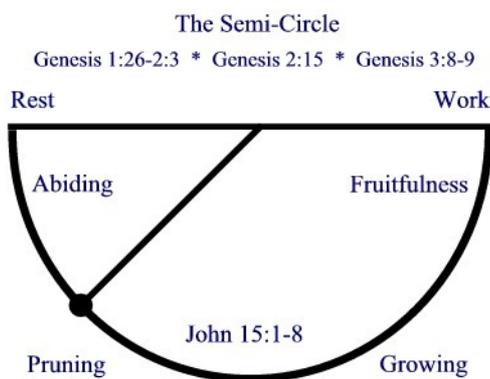
The reason for the reference- Israel the vine

"As in Psalm 80, God plants and cultivates the vine: he is the *gardener*: the Greek word (*geōrgos*) properly means ‘farmer’, though in English ‘farmer’ is not normally used to describe vinedressing. It is hard not to see in the relation between the vine and this gardener a reflection of the kind of subordination the Son displays toward his Father. The branches derive their life from the vine; the vine produces its fruit through the branches.”-D. A. Carson

*Psalm 80 Restore us, O God Almighty;  
make your face shine upon us,  
that we may be saved.  
You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it ...  
Return to us, O God Almighty!  
Look down from heaven and see!  
Watch over this vine,*

*the root your right hand has planted,  
the son [the Heb. word may mean 'stock' or 'branch'] you have  
raised up for yourself.  
Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;  
at your rebuke your people perish.  
Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.*

The Illustration, Work from a place of Rest. –Explained more next week.



## **Our Identity.**

Jesus has chosen the path to work through us, if this is true, then he must have plans he wishes to enact through us, these plans are no longer to be kept in the dark as servants often are, but to be revealed as "family members" who know what is going on.

"Who you are" should always drive "what you do", and "we are", "who" Christ calls us. That is we should see ourselves as Jesus defines us and in no other manner, and this should be the way we view our attitude to life .

## **Friends of the king**

"So, our friendship with Christ involves love and obedience. But it also involves knowledge: He "lets us in on" His plans. Indeed, He is our Master (John 13:13, 16), but He does not treat us as

servants. He treats us as friends, *if* we do what He commands. Abraham was God's friend because he obeyed God (Gen. 18:19). If we have friendship with the world, we then experience enmity with God (James 4:1–4). Lot in Sodom was not called God's friend, even though Lot was a saved man (2 Peter 2:7). God told Abraham what He planned to do to the cities of the plain, and Abraham was able to intercede for Lot and his family.”- Warren W. Wiersbe

"It is this kind of a relationship that Jesus described when He called His disciples "friends." It was certainly a relationship of *love*, both for Him and for each other. The "friends of the King" could not compete with each other for attention or promotion. They were a part of the "inner circle," not to promote themselves, but to serve their King. What a rebuke this must have been to the selfish disciples who often argued over who was the greatest!"-Warren W. Wiersbe

"One day while he was a fugitive, David was near Bethlehem, his home city, and he longed for a drink of water from the well by the gate. Three of his mighty men were close enough to David to hear his sigh, and they risked their lives to bring their king the water that he wanted (2 Sam. 23:15–17). That is what it means to be a friend of the king.”-Warren W. Wiersbe,

### **Knowing the kings business**

Biblical Illustration- Abraham and Lot. In the account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah the angels and God discuss whether to let Abraham in on the plans they have,

Genesis 18:17-19 (NLT) "Should I hide my plan from Abraham?" the Lord asked. 18 "For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. 19 I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised."

Being denoted as one who will be used by God, he informs Abraham of God's plans. Abraham then starts to intercede for the fallen city!

Knights of the realm.

IN the fiction story of King Arthur, the knights of the round table were there to bring the Kings Justice to bear on the area they were present in, where they existed justice also was found. They were about the kings business. This can be physically or in the Spiritual realm through prayer.

Modern day Australia has the "Governor General" technically to oversee the queens business and interests within this commonwealth country. They understand their role and will be know personally to the queen, they will "be friends" in this sense of the word, not best buddies, but a person who has dedicated their life to the interest of those they serve.

For those of us who follow Christ, this service should always be a response of love from the salvation we have experienced.

Wise women/Elders, both these groups were expecting to uphold the tradition and laws of those who were in charge, be it a tribal council, local king, or village governance, they were to about the business with informed knowledge and agreed and willing participation

Fruit bears-We become the bears of the fruit of Jesus, which has a variety of dimensions to it, first the fruit shall bring love and joy and peace, and they in turn will be allowed to be picked by others, this comes as blessing to those who would receive with the right heart. One main characteristic of fruit is that it will be eternal

"Fruit has in it the seed for more fruit, so the process goes on and on. Whatever is born of the Spirit of God has the mark of eternity on it, and it will last.

Once again, Jesus brought up the privilege of prayer. The friends of the king certainly speak to their sovereign and share their burdens and needs with him. In the days of monarchies, it was considered a very special honor to be invited to speak to the king or queen; yet the friends of Jesus Christ can speak to Him at any time. The throne of grace is always available to them.

John 15:15–16 summarize for us what it means to be a friend of the King of kings. It is a humbling experience, for He chose us and

we did not choose Him. We must keep this in mind lest we become proud and presumptuous. It means that we keep our ears open and listen to what He says to us. "Hast thou heard the secret of God?" (Job 15:8) "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant" (Ps. 25:14). We must be attentive and alert."- Warren W. Wiersbe