

Connected to Jesus

John 15:1-9

"I am the true Vine, and my Father is the Gardener. ²He lops off every branch that doesn't produce. And he prunes those branches that bear fruit for even larger crops. ³He has already tended you by pruning you back for greater strength and usefulness by means of the commands I gave you. ⁴Take care to live in me, and let me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me. ⁵"Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. For apart from me you can't do a thing. ⁶If anyone separates from me, he is thrown away like a useless branch, withers, and is gathered into a pile with all the others and burned. ⁷But if you stay in me and obey my commands, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! ⁸My true disciples produce bountiful harvests. This brings great glory to my Father. ⁹"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Live within my love.

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Big Bethel Nation. Let's turn to The Gospel (John 15:1-9) as we lift up the Name of the Lord. The sermon topic is "Connected to Jesus"

*Good morning beloved. Now we know that the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through **Jesus Christ our Lord**. (Romans 6:23) Let's turn to John 15:1-9. Our key verse is verse 4. In this pericope or unit of scripture, Jesus teaches the importance of being connected to Him. In fact, He says that we must take care to live in Him and let Him live in us. The analogy used is to show us a word picture that will clearly display a view of productivity and a view of lack of productivity. It also shows the contrast of life and death, because the connected branch will live and be productive, however the disconnected branch will wither and perish because it has lost the very source that sustains it.*

Well Big Bethel Nation, I feel good this morning. After enduring a wonderful, but somewhat trying week, I find that this morning I am preaching and teaching out of my own journey. I'm "Thankful" that the Lord has allowed me to see another birthday and has allowed us to see the dawning of a new day. I can truly say that you and I, (We)... have been Blessed in a Mighty Way. One colleague asked me "How are you doing Reverend?" I replied, "I'm Blessed and Highly favored of the Lord." I can't complain, because the Lord has been Mighty Good to Me. He kept me in the midst of all that is going on in this world, nation, and community. I'm Blessed because of my connection with the Lord Jesus Christ. I asked my colleague "How are you doing?" He said "Well, when I woke up this morning, I

read the obituary and I didn't see my name in there. He said "I'm Thankful that God has kept me alive. I'm just a nobody, trying to tell everybody about somebody who can save anybody." I don't know about you, but I just need to take a praise break and tell the Lord "Thank You for waking us up this morning." We can't take it lightly, because God made a way out of no way. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

Yes saints, I am preaching out of my own journey, Blessed through the connection with the Lord Jesus Christ. The fact is that Jesus is the true vine in our lives. He is truly the source in our lives. Everything else is a resource, but Jesus Christ must be the SOURCE. Let me expound a moment while we transition towards the cultural hermeneutic (study of the principals of interpretation), and the exegetical aspect (analytical study), of the text. Jesus teaches that we must be connected to Him; the source of all life and blessings. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the glue that has held us together and the one who has kept us alive.

On Friday, August 28th, 2020 at roughly 8:30 a.m. I stopped at the store on my drive to work. After coming out of the store, I got into my automobile, turned the key in the ignition only to realize that it would not start. This concerned me because I realized that something is wrong with the battery, alternator, or the starter. I said a prayer and in a moment of time, I realized that I had to conduct an investigation on why the automobile would not crank up. I lifted up the hood, took a look at the battery and simply touched the battery and the battery cable, praying that moving it would somehow restore it's exuberance. I also tapped on the alternator once, then said a prayer asking God to allow the automobile to crank so that I could go to work. "Church I was talking to the source" (The Lord) to help me get to a resource (The Job)." Y'all 'aint hearing what I'm saying. I said, I was talking to the SOURCE to help me to get to a resource. You see the Lord is the source. The Lord is our everything. I was taking to the SOURCE, to startup the vehicle and to allow me to get to the resource. Well, you guessed it. When I got back into the vehicle and turned the ignition, the car fired up as if it was supercharged and ready to go. I gave the Lord some praise and went to work. Later that afternoon, I took the vehicle to AutoZone so I could test the battery. I figured that I would have to purchase a battery, starter, or alternator. As I stood in line, I was thinking 'O my goodness, it's time to spend some money. Help me Jesus. You're the SOURCE; you're my everything. The AutoZone representative came out and tested the battery. I'm praying, Lord let the battery be good, and sure enough the representative say's "the battery is good." Sir, can you check the alternator? Yes, he replied. Shortly after testing it, he said, "Sir, the alternator is good." Do you want me to check the starter? Yes, please check the starter. Church, in my mind, I think of all of the components that make up the automobile and the cost associated with the components. I think about the exterior, the interior, the headlights, engine, transmission, tires, wheels, rims, headlights, windshield, seats, amenities, muffler, pipes, etc. I also think about life and all of the accolades that are a part of life. While in deep thought I hear the AutoZone

representative say, "The starter is in good condition too." As we looked under the hood, the Lord dropped in my spirit, "Check the cable on the battery." I checked the cable on the battery and Yes, you guessed it. It was loose. It had lost it's connection.

The reason why the automobile did not crank up on Thursday was because it had lost it's connection. Newsflash... If you can't sleep at night. Maybe, just maybe you're spiritual connection to Jesus 'aint where it outta be. If you don't have any peace, maybe, just maybe your spiritual cable of prayer is too loose and you need to tighten it up with the Lord. If you got time for everybody else and you don't have time for Jesus, baby... you need to get back into reading your bible, get back to your prayer life, devotion, and get connected with the Lord. If you can make it to work, which is a resource, but you can't make it to fellowship with the Lord, get yourself connected. He is the source of your blessing. Won't He Do It. Say Yes, Say Yes, Say Yes.

Saints, the entire vehicle was not performing because the cable was properly connected. Help me Lord Jesus. The cable which many would overlook. You may see my glory, but you really don't know my story. I've had some trouble in my way. I have to cry sometimes. Trouble in my way. I have to cry sometimes. I lay awake at night, but that's alright. 'Cause I know that Jesus will fix it, after a while. Because I realize the blessing, power, and benefit in being connected with the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you connected to Him, Saints? The AZ representative tugged on the loose battery cable, went inside the store and his supervisor came out to inspect the battery. After inspection, the supervisor went inside to get the appropriate tools and tightened the battery cable that had lost connection.

Once the connection was in place. I said, once the connection was in place. The battery did exactly what it was supposed to do. Then everything else fell right in place. The starter could serve its function. The alternator served its function. The engine served its function. The transmission did its part. Beloved, when you connect with Jesus, who is the true vine, everything else will line up. Matthew 6:33 teaches us to seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. As you connect with Jesus, strengthen your prayer life, devotion, and read God's Word daily. You and I will continue to grow as disciples of the Lord. John 15:4-9 teaches us to take care to live in Christ, and let Him live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when **severed** from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from Christ. ⁵"Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. For apart from me you can't do a thing. ⁶If anyone separates from me, he is thrown away like a useless branch, withers, and is gathered into a pile with all the others and burned. ⁷But if you stay in me and obey my commands, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! ⁸My true disciples produce bountiful harvests. This brings great glory to my Father. ⁹"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Live within my love. Beloved; Stay Connected to Jesus.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Closing Prayer of Salvation

Lord I stand on your Holy Word and according to Romans 10:9. I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. I believe this and I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Now, your name is written in the Lamb's book of life. (God Bless You and Heaven Smile Upon You. Welcome to the Body of Christ.)

Benediction

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.