

February 23 & 24, 2019



The Sign: John 15:1 *"I am the vine..."*

The Setting:

1. Jesus had told the disciples He was leaving them.
2. Jesus promised them the coming of the Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus and the disciples have left the upper room for the garden of Gethsemane.

The Story:

The main point of the story: "remain in Christ"

The defined details of the story

The vine is Jesus.

The gardener is God.

The branches are believers.

The undefined details of the story

What is the fruit?

1. "Fruit" are new believers.

Colossians 1:6 . . . *All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.*

2. "Fruit" is character produced by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control . . .*

3. "Fruit" is praise to God.

Hebrews 13:15 *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.*

Who are the branches that bear no fruit?

1. Believers who lose their salvation

No:

John 10:28 *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

2. Believers who lose their reward

Possibly:

1 Corinthians 3:11 *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.*

3. Believers in appearance but not sincerity

Likely:

1 John 2:19 *They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.*

The Significance:

1. Remaining in Christ makes us fruitful.

John 15:5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; . . ."*

2. Remaining in Christ makes us useful.

John 15:5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. . . . apart from me you can do nothing 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers;*

such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."

3. Remaining in Christ makes us insightful.

John 15:7 *"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."*

4. Remaining in Christ makes us purposeful.

John 15:8 *"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

5. Remaining in Christ makes us joyful.

John 15:9 *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*