

Children's Message
6.24.07

Good morning.

I had the greatest idea and I can't wait to share it with you! Look what I brought with me today- a branch, a grape branch- and here's my great idea: I am going to put this branch in a pot in my windowsill upstairs and, in no time, I will have delicious grapes to eat- right in my own office! I can't believe that no one has ever thought of that before.

What's wrong? Don't you think that it's a great idea? A good idea? Why won't that work?

You really have to have a vine that has roots in the earth and the branch can be attached to the vine. Then, and only then, would it be possible for a branch to grow grapes.

Listen to what it says in the Bible.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

In this Bible verse Jesus tells us that He is the grapevine and we are the branches. Jesus is telling us that we need to be fastened tightly to Him, just as a branch is fastened tightly to its vine. And once we have done that- we can have "fruit" in our lives.

But what does that mean, exactly? It means that when we trust in Jesus to give us life, and health and love; we will grow and then we will begin to share the same good things with others- that's when we begin to have "fruit" in our lives.

Today, during the service we will be hearing from our Appalachian Services Project missionaries. They will be telling the congregation how they took the lessons they learned from Jesus about being good to others and helping others in need and put them into action by helping families in Appalachia.

Do you see? They became a branch and fastened tightly to Jesus, the vine, by trusting in the good things Jesus taught them and then... they went and shared those good things with others- they bore "fruit" for Jesus.

Pastor Sue Ann, will you please lead us in prayer?