

## “Standing In Line”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Most of us know the story from Luke that tells us that Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem so they could be counted in the census.

Notes:

[a]

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. *Lu 2:1-5 (NIV)*

Here were Joseph and Mary standing in line with everyone else, doing what every other person in the land was doing. Standing in line they may have seemed ordinary, but Joseph and Mary's calling and purpose was anything but ordinary.

Can you imagine what was going through their heads? The person counted before them may have been thinking about the flocks he had to get back to, or the person behind them may have been wondering how his

business would suffer from his being away due to the census. But, Mary and Joseph were facing the imminent birth of the Son of God.

The people who saw Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem had no idea that they were the couple the Heavenly Father specifically chose to raise His only begotten Son.

Relate this to yourself. Each Believer has a specific gifting and purpose that our Heavenly Father has put inside him/her. The people who pass you on the street may not see or notice it at this time, but it most definitely is there. This divine seed planted in you by our Heavenly Father was put there for a specific time and when that time has come God will bring that divine purpose into the open for all to see. Despite what people around you see or think, ponder in your heart who the Word says you are and with a heart of gratitude be at the ready do your calling when the Lord's timing arrives.

8-49

The Sojourner  
Sojourner's Fellowships  
PO Box 955  
Manchester, TN 37349

Phone: 931-409-1406  
Toll Free: 800-391-6944  
Skype: thesojourner3734  
Email:  
[thesojourner@sojournershub.org](mailto:thesojourner@sojournershub.org)



# Sojourning

Vol. 8 No. 49 December 13, 2009

...with The Sojourner

## “Vine And Branches” (Teaching Sketch)

John 15:5-11



Vines are very interesting plants and they serve a number of functions.

Vines can be decorative, fruit bearing, nuisances, and/or poisonous. The types of vines we have around can make a great deal of difference in our environment.

### Characteristics

Some vines grow only along the ground while others climb on rocks, buildings, and trees. These are the vines that attach themselves to something stable and enduring. The word Jesus used in our scripture was of a vine that in the Greek meant “as *coiling about* a support.” Jesus spoke of how close he and the Father were. They were very close. Jesus was so intertwined with the Father that they experienced the same things at the same time. Jesus spent a great deal of time with the Father in fellowship—a communion.

### Everyone Is Attached

Everyone is attached in some manner to one or more things.

These attachments have a great bearing on the life a person carries out, endures, or fulfills.

It is in fact the attachments in our lives which shape us. A number of years ago a study was done to see what effect certain movies had on young minds as they were watched by young people. The findings were interesting. It seems the effect on behavior was based upon how the viewer had already attached his view of life. Those who had accepted criminal behavior as a way of life identified and had sympathy with the “bad guys” while those viewers who identified with the “good guys” were those who had not accepted criminal behavior as a way of life. You see it is identity of themselves they clung to and wound their lives around. They had made a choice at some point as to who they were and clung to that choice to reinforce their own line of thinking.

### Fruit Of A Vine

Notes:

[1]

[2]

8-49

## Scripture: John 15:5-11 (NIV)

(NIV used to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

<sup>5</sup>"I am the vine;<sup>[a]</sup> you are the branches.<sup>[b]</sup> If a man remains<sup>[c]</sup> in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you obey my commands, you will

### Notes:

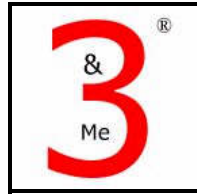
[a]

<G288>  
ampe-  
los— a  
vine (as  
coiling  
about a  
support):-  
vine  
[b]

<G2814>  
klema—  
a limb or  
shoot (as  
if broken  
off):-  
branch  
[c]

<G3306>  
meno—  
prim.  
Verb; to  
stay (in a

remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.



Find 3 people to bless with the blessings of our Lord and all that is theirs by blood adoption, or as-signment!

### Just so you'll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

## "Vine And Branches" (Teaching Sketch)

John 15:5-11



Each vine has its own fruit, in the case of poison ivy it will live much like a parasite and may eventually choke out the very life of the host plant giving it support plus causing great angst to any third entity such humans coming into contact with it. While other vines, such as grapes, will live in a symbiotic relationship with the host plant and bear much fruit for its own propagation and the benefit of a third entity, such as man, giving sustenance.

given  
place,  
state,  
relation,  
or expect-  
ancy)

show his blessing through us and to us, and in doing so he will be glorified. Be as the grape vine and bear much fruit!

## Advent



This is the third week in Advent. This is the week (re-light 1 & 2) we light the:

### Bethlehem Candle

#### Saying:

"I light the **Bethlehem Candle**, which reminds us Mary and Joseph went to the City of David to be taxed and fulfill the prophecy of old that the Savior was to be born in Bethlehem."

**Read:** Luke 2:1-7

**Sing:** "O' Little Town of Bethlehem"

### Choose Carefully

Each of us needs to choose carefully what we attach and cling to as we travel—sojourn—through this life. Yes, I said choose! You see, choose we must and in the choosing we determine if we will bear fruit and what type of fruit we are to bear. Jesus said, <sup>7</sup>"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

### Glory To God

When we choose to wrap ourselves around God then we are empowered to bear the fruit of God and God will