

MAY 5, 2021
Wednesday of the 5th Week of Easter
John 15: 1-8

“ABIDE IN ME AS I ABIDE IN YOU.”

We are all familiar with a tree with its trunk, roots, branches, and leaves. Branches and leaves will never grow unless they are attached to the trunk. If they are separated, they will die, fall to the ground, and become nothing, not part anymore of the tree. In our gospel, Jesus Christ explains what must be our relationship with Him be like and should be like. He is the trunk of the tree which the branches and leaves get sustenance and nourishment. Only when a branch is connected to the trunk, it bears much fruit. Jesus Christ is the source of life and only in Him that we can received eternal life. Without Christ in our lives, to be separated from Him which is the result of our own free choice, we die, we wither. That separation is not only physical but a separation of our identity, rejecting and denying the Way of Jesus, the way of life. When we reject Him, we reject life which lead to decay and death.

My brothers and sisters, “Jesus offers true life - the abundant life which comes from God and which results in great fruitfulness. How does the vine become fruitful? The vine dresser must carefully prune the vine before it can bear good fruit. Vines characteristically have two kinds of branches - those which bear fruit and those which don't. The non-bearing branches must be carefully pruned back in order for the vine to conserve its strength for bearing good fruit. Jesus used this image to describe the kind of life He produces in those who are united with Him - the fruit of ‘righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit’ (Romans 14:17). Jesus says there can be no fruit in our lives apart from Him. The fruit He speaks of here is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). There is a simple truth here: We are either fruit-bearing or non-fruit-bearing. There

is no in-between. But the bearing of healthy fruit requires drastic pruning. The Lord promises that we will bear much fruit if we abide in Him and allow Him to purify us.”¹

Let us abide in Him and we will bear much fruit which means act, think, and live in line with the life and teachings of Jesus. And what is the the teaching of Jesus: love one another as I have loved you! Let us love the Lord in our brothers and sisters, forgive them as Christ forgives us, and love them as Christ love us totally. So, are we willing to abide in Him, and be pruned so that we may bear fruit? Let us ask in this Eucharist that as we receive Him, we may be fruitful and share it to our brothers and sisters through words and deeds.

¹ www.dailyscripture.net