

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Gospel – Adapted from John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch that does not produce fruit, and he prunes every branch that does produce fruit so that it produces more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. A branch can not produce fruit on its own; it must be connected to the vine. In the same way, you can not produce fruit unless you remain in me.



“I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I remain in him, will produce much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Whoever does not remain in me will wither like a branch separated from the vine. They will be gathered up, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you. This gives glory to my Father, when you produce much fruit and become my disciples.”

Reflection

Have you ever seen a grape vine? It grows up, and then sends branches in multiple directions. What happens if you cut one of the branches off the vine? It dries out and withers. The leaves will fall off, and no fruit will grow. It has been cut off from its source of life, and it dies.

Jesus says that He is the vine. If we cut ourselves off from Him, the same thing will happen to us. We will wither and die. Our world is full of people and groups that try to cut themselves off from Jesus and still

bear fruit. Some may have very lofty goals, but they try to accomplish things apart from God. It is impossible. Jesus says that, “Without me, you can do nothing.” Sure, people can still accomplish tasks, and even do good things, but without God, there is no way to do things that are truly great.

However, if we remain connected to the vine, we bear much fruit. A person can give food to the poor on their own, but they can not share the love of God separated from Him. The only way to truly have life and bear fruit is to remain connected to Jesus. And this, He says, gives glory to our Father in Heaven.



Discussion Questions

Why is it necessary to remain in Jesus to bear fruit?

Why do you think even some people who want to do good things try to do them without God?

Vocabulary

- **Disciple** - Jesus tells us to be His disciples. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus, learns from Him, and tries to be like Him.
- **Glory** - Great praise and honor. When we are united to Jesus, our lives can give glory to God.
- **Good Fruit** - Jesus speaks of producing fruit. This means doing good, successfully doing God's will. God wants to do amazing things with us, but we must be united to Jesus.
- **Pruning** - Pruning a plant means cutting off certain parts so that the plant can be healthy and grow better. God prunes us, if we allow Him to, by cutting harmful things out of our lives, and helping us grow.

Fill in the blanks

1 Each of us is called to be a _____ of Jesus.

2 If we stay connected to Jesus, we can produce _____.

3 Our lives give _____ to God, when we are united to Jesus.

4 Like a plant, God _____ us by cutting away things that are unhealthy, and helping us grow.

Quiz

1 In today's Gospel, what does Jesus call Himself?

- A** The Savior
- B** The Lamb of God
- C** A Vine
- D** A Shepherd

2 What will people who remain connected to Jesus do?

- A** Miracles
- B** Produce fruit
- C** Eat fruit
- D** Grow vines

3 What does the Father do to every branch that produces fruit?

- A** Prunes them
- B** Burns them
- C** Decorates them
- D** Sells them

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P B G M F N L D P W G S L U E
Y Z Q S Y X I B D C O I I N U
X A G F D S X E F D O I I X E
C Y S A C Y Y J T D D V E L Q
O B O I D R Q E J L F S B P K
E D P H Z O S X C J R T P X T
J L N V W L G J J N U V D P J
E A U A Y G W X K E I L M U U
K G J C G G O P S E T Z X M E
J Z N O C O U J J W P Y S V E
H A D I Q U V W E G R Y J U Z
S H G X N D Q V V T X T R H J
P V G R I U Y A D C N W B Z C
S E H C N A R B Q L B H E W U
N O O M P D U P G Z Y Q C S O

BRANCHES

DISCIPLE

GLORY

GOOD FRUIT

PRUNING

VINE

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1** Disciple
- 2** Good fruit
- 3** Glory
- 4** Prunes

Quiz

- 1** C – A vine
- 2** B – Produce fruit
- 3** A – Prunes them



