

5th Sunday of Easter Time - Year B

Let me tell you about my father – it kind of relates to this Gospel

- My Father was a big gardener – 3 acres 150 tomato plants, fruit trees, flowers, green house
Now, every spring he'd find winter kill on rosebushes (Pruning gets more roses)
 - Another kind of pruning is clearing out the suckers (Tomatoes)
 - Branches that never bear fruit but draw nutrients from vine
 - What do we have in our lives that will never bear good fruit?
 - Not sinful – but not fruitful either
 - Get rid of the fruitLESS to become fruitFUL
 - Winter kill IS death – like sin -
 - What do we have in our lives that leads us to sin?
 - Cut it off, throw it away – Don't you want more roses?
- We each have lives that can bear good fruit, **BUT**
 - We each have sin (Jesus says ITS PRUNING TIME)
 - **Jesus says the Father is willing to prune us because:**
 - “By this is my Father glorified – that you bear much fruit”
OUR HEAVENLY FATHER WANTS US TO BE FRUITFUL
We GET to be pruned so that we can be more fruitful
- “Branch needs to stay connected to the vine to bear fruit” – HOW DO WE STAY CONNECTED
 - **2nd Reading** 1JN “Those who keep commandments remain in Him and He in them”
 - (Just like the way the branch needs to stay connected to the vine)
 - “Let us love in deed and in truth, not just talk about it”
 - This is the root of our fruitfulness:
 - “Those who keep commandments remain in Him and He in them”
- That's what happened to St. Paul (**Saul** of our **1st reading** – & Saul was no saint)
 - Early Church was persecuted & Saul was one of the worst
 - Hunt them down – he helped stone St. Stephen
 - On his way to Damascus to arrest more when – he meets JESUS
 - A little pruning takes place
 - Saul becomes Paul (his old life is pruned away) & Paul starts preaching
 - **Paul is bearing fruit (but not until God pruned him)**
Are we bearing fruit in the Kingdom of God?
What is there in our life that God needs to prune? SNIP
Only you can answer.
What is getting in the way of you bearing more fruit? SNIP

You might ask me – what is the fruit we are supposed to bear?

How can I tell I am bearing the fruit JC wants (**fruit of HS is in GAL 5**)
(Love Joy Peace Patience Kindness Goodness Faithfulness Gentleness Self-Control)

- Within each of us is a Saul – pride, anger, envy, selfishness, jealousy – all of it.
- Within each of us is also a Paul – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness and Self-Control.
- We can be attached to the vine of the world – OR to the vine of Christ.
- It's our choice. What kind of fruit do you want in your life?
“Let us love in deed and in truth, not just talk about it”