



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

2 May 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Quinto Domingo de Pascua

Announcements

We have returned to our church for Mass each Sunday. Pray for our safety and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful. We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

Let us also pray for the departure of the virus, and rapid vaccine distribution. This is a crisis that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord. We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- Welcome.
 - There are no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate this week.
 - The parish community of Holy Spirit OCC, Bishop Steven's church, warmly invites you to join them for a cruise from the Port of Tampa, Monday-Saturday, January 17-22, 2022. The ship will visit Cozumel MX and George Town Grand Cayman, sailing in Royal Caribbean's Brilliance of the Seas. Prices depend on the stateroom and double occupancy and range from \$304 - 800, I've printed the email and flyer and posted it to the bulletin board.
 - Let us watch the news carefully; listen to what doctors say, and pray that all the people of the world will be vaccinated. Pray so that all churches may resume the gathering that means so much.
 - I will stay in touch with each of you as we plan our church schedule for the months ahead. Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>
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Gospel John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



Homily

Six times Jesus said 'abide.' Abide is a word most of us don't use much.. I don't... except when talking about Bible things. So let's review vocabulary for a moment. To abide is to remain with; to await; accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation).

In the New Testament, Chapters 14-17 of the Gospel of John are known as the Farewell Discourse given by Jesus to eleven of his disciples immediately after the conclusion of the Last Supper in Jerusalem, the night before his crucifixion.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. You will find that different words are used in different editions of the Bible:

the keeper – the vine-grower – the gardener – husbandman – vinedresser

I could skip this lesson and just sing our opening hymn to you; "I Am The Vine." But I don't sing well so, let's just explore the Gospel with words.

Speaking about God's plan, Jesus says, "He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit." It clearly means that those who do not or will not follow the teaching of Christ are forsaken. They are doomed to hell.

God will always love them and all they would have to do is ask forgiveness and they could be whole and blessed and live forever in heaven.

The meaning of "taken away" or "removed" is that those who cut themselves off from God cannot be teachers. They do not see the light; they do not listen to the Lord, they do not teach; they do not love others as God intended. By their own choice they are removed from the vine.

Broken or removed from the vine is different than being pruned. Jesus said, "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." Pruning is the process of dressing, trimming and preparing a branch to bear more fruit; to trim it for the best yield. Recall the word 'vinedresser.'

Do you feel like you are dressed up in your disciple clothes and ready to deliver as God asked? You should. If not go home and read the Gospel of John; especially Chapters 14-17.

These chapters are the instructions of Christ to those that follow him. Words to pass through the ages to those that see the light and consider themselves as a branch of the tree of God through his son.

so... abide meaning to remain with;

Jesus said, "the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



Evangelio Juan 15:1-8

Jesús dijo a sus discípulos: —Yo soy la vid verdadera, y mi Padre es el que la cultiva. Si una de mis ramas no da uvas, la corta; pero si da uvas, la poda y la limpia, para que dé más. Ustedes ya están limpios por las palabras que les he dicho. Sigán unidos a mí, como yo sigo unido a ustedes. Una rama no puede dar uvas de sí misma, si no está unida a la vid; de igual manera, ustedes no pueden dar fruto, si no permanecen unidos a mí.

»Yo soy la vid, y ustedes son las ramas. El que permanece unido a mí, y yo unido a él, da mucho fruto; pues sin mí no pueden ustedes hacer nada. El que no permanece unido a mí, será echado fuera y se secará como las ramas que se recogen y se queman en el fuego.

»Si ustedes permanecen unidos a mí, y si permanecen fieles a mis enseñanzas, pidan lo que quieran y se les dará. En esto se muestra la gloria de mi Padre, en que den mucho fruto y lleguen así a ser verdaderos discípulos míos.



Homilía

Seis veces Jesús dijo 'permaneced'. Permanecer es una palabra que la mayoría de nosotros no usamos mucho ... Yo no ... excepto cuando hablamos de cosas bíblicas. Así que repasemos el vocabulario por un momento. Permanecer es esperar; aceptar o actuar de acuerdo con (una regla, decisión o recomendación).

En el Nuevo Testamento, los capítulos 14-17 del Evangelio de Juan se conocen como el Discurso de despedida que Jesús dio a once de sus discípulos inmediatamente después de la conclusión de la Última Cena en Jerusalén, la noche antes de su crucifixión.

Jesús dijo a sus discípulos: "Yo soy la vid verdadera, y mi Padre es el viñador. Verán que se usan diferentes palabras en diferentes ediciones de la Biblia:

el guardián - el viticultor - el jardinero - el labrador - el viñador

Podría saltarme esta lección y simplemente cantarte nuestro himno de apertura; "Yo soy la vid". Pero no canto bien, así que exploremos el Evangelio con palabras.

Hablando del plan de Dios, Jesús dice: "Quita en mí toda rama que no da fruto". Significa claramente que aquellos que no siguen o no seguirán la enseñanza de Cristo son abandonados. Están condenados al infierno.

Dios siempre los amará y todo lo que tendrían que hacer es pedir perdón y podrían estar completos y bendecidos y vivir para siempre en el cielo.

El significado de "quitado" es que aquellos que se apartan de Dios no pueden ser maestros. No ven la luz; no escuchan al Señor, no enseñan; no aman a los demás como Dios quiso. Por su propia elección se quitan de la vid.

Quebrado o arrancado de la vid es diferente a ser podado. Jesús dijo: "Todo pámpano que da fruto, lo poda para que dé más fruto". La poda es el proceso de vestir, recortar y preparar una rama para que dé más fruto; para recortarlo para obtener el mejor rendimiento. Recuerde la palabra 'viñador'.

¿Se siente como si estuviera vestido con su ropa de discípulo y listo para entregar como Dios le pidió? Debería. Si no, vete a casa y lee el Evangelio de Juan; especialmente los capítulos 14-17.

Estos capítulos son las instrucciones de Cristo para quienes lo siguen. Palabras para pasar a través de los siglos a los que ven la luz y se consideran rama del árbol de Dios a través de su hijo.

Jesús dijo: "El pámpano no puede dar fruto por sí mismo si no permanece en la vid, ni tú si no permaneces en mí". "Mi Padre es glorificado en esto, que ustedes den mucho fruto y sean mis discípulos".

