



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Lectionary: 53

Gospel Jn 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 in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Spiritual Reflection: Real prayer is union with God, a union as vital as that of the vine to the branch. - Mother Teresa
Seven quick tips to help you pray better:

1. **Set prayer apart.**
2. **Learn to withdraw.**
3. **Have A Posture for Prayer**
4. **Pray Scripture.**
5. **Pray fervently.**
6. **Pray specifically.**
7. **Pray for and with others.**

Spiritual Questions:

1. Are you good or bad with staying connected with other people? Explain why?
2. What happens when you feel disconnected from someone?
3. What can you do to improve your connections to others?
4. How can you apply your answer to #3 to your relationship with God?
5. Which one of the seven things are you going to try in order to improve your connection with God?