

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Wednesday, Fifth Week of Easter**

**Forbearance is self-restraint when retaliation seems easier and appropriate.**

### **Acts 15-1:6**

The number of Christians continued to increase, and many gentile converts joined the community. Some converted Pharisees demanded that the gentile converts follow the Mosaic Law. This created dissension in the early Church. Paul and Barnabas were delegated to consult the apostles and the elders on this matter.

### **Psalm 122**

**I rejoiced because they said to me,  
“We will go up to the house of the Lord.”  
And now we have set foot  
Within your gates O Jerusalem.**

### **John 15:1-8**

**I am the vine, you are the branches.....remain in me, you will be fruitful.....you can do nothing without me.....**

Fruitfulness of the branches depends on their union, connection with the vine. The branches become fruitful only in the vine. The vine itself doesn't bear the fruit. Vine bears the branches and feeds the branches, and the branches bear the fruit.

**Abide in Christ....be united with him.... live in his spirit....you will bear much fruit! Be constantly fed by the “word” of Jesus and the “bread” of life and “cup” of compassion that Jesus offers. You will be fruitful.**

Fruitfulness also depends on the branches being trimmed, pruned, and cleaned. We could rephrase it to read “fruitfulness depends on being tamed, disciplined, controlled, directed, channeled, etc. – wild branches do not yield.... they become unyielding!”

**Be open and docile to the Holy Spirit! Be open to being pruned, trimmed, cleansed, disciplined, tamed.....be docile to the pruning process of the heavenly father...wild branches become unyielding! Be yielding...Be fruitful!**

## **Saint of the Day, May 1 - St. Joseph the Worker and 28 other saints are remembered this day.**

In 1955, a huge part of the world was being influenced by Communism. Among the efforts of Pope Pius XII to counter the evil effects of Communism's atheistic ideology was the institution of a new feast in honor of St. Joseph the Worker. Pius XII placed it on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the same day that the Communists held their "May Day" celebration: an anti-religious, purely secular commemoration of labor. To counter the communist view, Pope Pius XII placed before the faithful the example of St. Joseph the Worker, true model of all workers. St. Joseph did his work, quite literally, for God. As a carpenter in Nazareth, he worked in order to support the Child Jesus and His Mother Mary. Jesus learned the carpenter's trade from St. Joseph and worked for the majority of His life as a carpenter Himself. The life of the Holy Family shows us the value, beauty, and sanctity of work.

St. Joseph the Worker is the patron saint of all workers who get up and go to work every day to support the family they love and cherish. Catholic tradition has always held a deep respect for the dignity of human labor as a participation in the creative work of God. The book of Genesis (2:15) tells us of God's command to man to till the earth and let it become fruitful.

Saint Joseph was a carpenter and taught Jesus the trade as well. Jesus spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph's carpentry shop before beginning his ministry. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."

Saint Joseph is a model of work with respect and dignity. Let us draw our inspiration from St. Joseph and participate in the creative activity of our God.

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