

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Fifth Week of Easter

Want to live simply? Slowly remove things until you're left only with what makes you happy!

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...ou 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 18 - St. Pope John I and 18 other saints are remembered this day

Pope John I was a native of Siena in Italy. We do not have much information about his life before he became pope. He was elected Pope while he was still an archdeacon upon the death of Pope Hormisdas in 523. At that time, the ruler of Italy was Theodoric the Goth who subscribed to the Arianism which denied the divinity of Christ but had tolerated and even favored his Catholic subjects during the early part of his reign. His policy changed at about the time the young John was elected pope.

When the eastern emperor began imposing severe measures on the Arians of his area, the western emperor forced John to head a delegation to the East to soften the measures against the heretics. Little is known of the manner or outcome of the negotiations designed to secure continued toleration of Catholics in the West. On his way home, John was imprisoned at Ravenna because the emperor had begun to suspect that John's friendship with his eastern rival might lead to a conspiracy against his throne. Shortly after his imprisonment, John died on May 18, 526, apparently from the treatment he received in prison. John's body was transported to Rome and he was buried in the Basilica of St. Peter. He was Pope, the bishop of Rome from August 13, 523 to May 18, 526.

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