

# **CELEBRATE SABBATH**

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Being simple is not about getting rid of all your possessions.  
It is about being non-possessive and free.**

### **Acts 14:21-27**

Some Jews from Antioch and Iconium stoned Paul and dragged him out of the town. Paul's disciples formed a circle around him and protected him.

**Be grateful for your circle of friends! Help each other remain safe from all harm!**

Like good pastors, Paul and Barnabas continued their missionary journey, instructing people and encouraging them to stand strong in the face of difficulties.

The Gospel of today reminds us that love is the quality and character of the disciples of Jesus. It is this love that moved Paul and Barnabas to carry the message of Jesus risking their lives.

**Stay focused on your mission. Be faithful to your mission even when things don't turn out the way expect.**

### **Psalms 145**

This is a psalm composed for public worship. It is an acrostic (alphabetic) poem, the verses of which begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The Psalm focuses primarily on God's compassion, especially for the underprivileged and depressed. It is a daily reminder of praising the unfathomable greatness of God, which goes beyond all our theologies, philosophies and doctrines. Verse 4 invites us to meditate on the wondrous acts of God and to pass on this memory to the future generations.

Verses 8-9 express the most basic faith of the O.T. about the very nature of God: "steadfast love", "compassion" .... all-embracing love, abundant love. Verses 9-10 – All God's works give thanks because of the "all-embracing love". The whole Psalm proclaims God's name: "Steadfast love"

**The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.  
Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones bless you.**

### **Revelation 21:1-5**

John tells us about his vision of the faithful, after sufferings have been endured, enjoying the eternal presence of God, where "God will wipe every tear from their eyes" and make all things new. He saw a "new heaven and a new earth". With this vision, he affirmed,

“God’s dwelling is with the human race”.

**Be mindful of the presence of God in your life!**

### **John 13:31-35**

Jesus and the disciples were around the Passover table. Tension mounted among the twelve disciples as Jesus told them that one of them would betray him. Questions about who the betrayer was, suspicion of each other.....many such factors created confusion. It is amazing to know how Jesus tried to help the disciples become aware of what was happening and what was going to happen to him. They just failed to understand. They were too preoccupied with themselves and their ambitions.

Jesus made a final and special appeal to the heart of Judas. For the host to offer a special morsel from the dish was a sign of special friendship. When Jesus handed Judas Iscariot the “bit of food”, the “dipped morsel”, it was an offer of “special friendship”, a final appeal to the heart. But the heart of Judas was unmoved, full of greed, darkness, hate and didn’t see the light or the love that was offered. Judas left never to return!

**Be alert! Stay awake! Be sensitive to those around you and their concerns, needs, struggles, etc. Learn to see beyond yourself! Listen to the heart of those around you! Be compassionate!**

After Judas left, rejecting the love that was offered, Jesus told the disciples that they were to live and love as he did: “love one another as I have loved you”. The standard of life and love went far beyond what they had known. It was no more, “love your neighbor as yourself”....it became, “love one another as I have loved you”. The disciples were to love as the master loved.....not as others love them, not as they wish to be loved and not as they love themselves, but as the master himself loved! This is unconditional love...love unconquerable, invincible. This is love without competition, comparison, control and discrimination. This all embracing love...the way God loves...love of all people, the rich and the poor, the proud and haughty, the humble and meek. This is self-sacrificing love, “no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”.

**May your love transcend competition and control...May your love transcend ill feelings, jealousies, hatred, etc....May you reach out in selfless and generous service!**

**Saint of the Day, May 15 - Saint Isidore the Farmer and 18 other saints are remembered this day.**

Isidore was born into a poor but very devout family in Madrid around the year 1070. He was named Isidore from the name of their patron, St. Isidore of Seville. When he was barely old enough to wield a hoe, Isidore entered the service of John de Vergas, a wealthy landowner from Madrid, and worked faithfully on his estate outside the city for the rest of his life.

He married a young woman as simple and upright as himself who also became a saint—Maria de la Cabeza. They had one son, who died as a child. Isidore had deep religious feelings and habits. He rose early in the morning to go to church and spent many a holiday devoutly visiting the churches of Madrid and surrounding areas. All day long, as he walked behind the plow, he communed with God. His devotion, one might say, became a problem, for his fellow workers sometimes complained that he often showed up late because of lingering in church too long.

He was known for his love of the poor and shared what he had, even his meals, with the poor. There are accounts of Isidore's supplying them miraculously with food. He had a great concern for the proper treatment of animals as well. He died on May 15, 1130 and was canonized a saint on March 12, 1622 with Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila and Philip Neri. Together, the group is known in Spain as "the five saints." Isidore has become the patron of farmers and rural communities. He is the patron of Madrid, Spain, and of the United States National Rural Life Conference.

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