

A Thing Called Love is the Fruit We Must Bear

Sixth Week of Easter- May 6, 2018 – John 15:9-17

In today's gospel, Jesus continues the theme of bearing much fruit which he illustrated in last week's image of the vine and branches. The fruit we must bear is love. That love is the hallmark of discipleship that we are called to witness and work toward in our earthly life as one of his disciples.

How easy is that to do? I love my husband, children and I really love my grandchildren. But do I love people who I don't agree with? Do I love those who use violence as a means to an end? Do I love all of the people of the world? This is not easy.

Some of these situations and people are very challenging. I find some people not the easiest to like much less love. But that seems to be the challenge for us today. We are called to love everyone. How can this be possible? Without God it is impossible. Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love."

So love is not a virtue or a thing that we manufacture ourselves. Love is a gift from God. It is only through a relationship with God that we can know of God's love for us and in turn love others. The way to God for us is through Jesus.

Jesus' example of love is his final and complete love of his sacrifice on the cross. He has opened himself to death to give us eternal life, a life that is grounded in the pure love of the other.

We are told this week, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

Blessings!


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