

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

April 28, 2024 • 5th Sunday of Easter • John 15:1-8

## The Vine and Branches

*Jesus uses another image in this Gospel to explain his relationship to us. He is the vine and we are its branches. Just as a branch can not survive apart from the vine, we have no life apart from God. Jesus is the vine that provides that life to us.*

This reading gives us a clear picture of who we are as Christians and what is expected of us. When Jesus tells us, “I am the vine, you are the branches,” he offers us a strong metaphor regarding our relationship to him. Indeed, we will know how strong that relationship is by the fruit we bear.

And what fruit do we look for in a Christian’s life? Certainly not the same rewards and benefits offered in the secular world. We don’t count money, possessions or position as fruit on Jesus’ vine. The blossoms and fruit on Jesus’ vine reflect the life force that feeds it. The product of Jesus’ vine is the reproduction of his life-giving love in kind acts, healing actions and our own loving relationships.

This is an important message to hand on to our children. Christians have a different gauge to judge success. It is not how much we have that marks us as a winner; it is how much we love. We are the branches and Jesus is the vine, and as long as we stay connected to Jesus, his courage, his strength, his love will flow through us.

Like all healthy fruit, our actions and relationships will bear their own seeds and new vines will grow and the branches will multiply. Jesus wants us to know that he is our life force, and with him we are strong enough to overcome anything and accomplish everything.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Decide as a family who the real winners you know are using the criteria of how much a person loves us as a gauge of a person’s success.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Do you find it hard to gauge your own success as a person by how much you love others and your loving actions? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?