



Apr. 29, 2018 John 15: 1-8 & Acts 9: 26-31

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[The Vine and the Branches](#)

ENTERING THE SCENE:

Fr. Beck, in this wonderful drawing, beckons us to enter into the mystery of the cross in a new way. It is a cross-laden with vines that have borne much fruit. The inescapable message is that each of us, by accepting our daily crosses, will also bear much fruit.

Again Fr. Beck: "In this sense, the pruning of the vine will be a matter of discerning what promises to claim the future in the present and what does not. Perceiving where new growth is emerging, and where it has stopped growing, discerning the dry wood and the green."

Jn. 15:1-8

I am the true **vine**, and my **Father** is the **gardener**. 2 He **cuts off** every **branch** in me that **bears no fruit**, while every **branch** that does **bear fruit** he **prunes** so that it will be even more **fruitful**. 3 You are already **clean** because of the **word** I have spoken to you. 4 **Remain** in me, and I will **remain** in you. No **branch** can **bear fruit** by itself; it must **remain** in the **vine**. Neither can you **bear fruit** unless you **remain**

in me. 5 I am the **vine**; you are the **branches**. If a man **remains** in me and I in him, he will **bear much fruit**; **apart** from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not **remain** in me, he is like a **branch** that is **thrown away** and **withers**; such **branches** are picked up, **thrown** into the fire and burned. 7 If you **remain** in me and my **words remain** in you, **ask** whatever you wish, and it will be **given** you. 8 This is to my **Father's glory**, that you **bear much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my **disciples**.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: God's glory is your fruitful life. How is your vine producing these days?

PRAYER: Lord, you used images of daily life to help us understand God's ways for us. There is something disturbing about this image of being pruned in your teaching today. I feel the sting as you "clip" off all those places in my life that take up energy that should be going toward producing fruit. It is hard to focus in on just what is essential. There are so many interesting or distracting things that seem to demand my attention. Help me to trust your pruning process so that I will bear abundant and life giving fruit. Amen