



The 5th Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021

“Yes I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

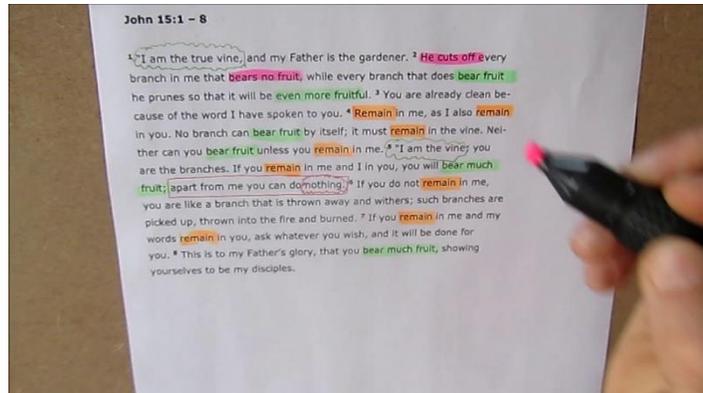
Society presents the Christian with a challenge. Our culture revolves around the idea of “doing it my way,” of exalting individualism, and encouraging self-sufficiency and self-reliance. Unfortunately, this way is doomed to failure because it is too much to bear. We are overwhelmed by the demands that are placed upon us, and, very often, people literally “shut down” and become depressed.

But Jesus' way is not our way. Jesus' way is to link us to himself. We are linked not in a relationship of dependency. That also leads to depression. But, we are linked as to the true vine. We are linked and bonded and connected to the source of our life and power. And that gives us strength to do great things for God. We are able to bear fruit “in a resurrected kind of way”

Yours in Christ, Pastor Doug

- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service.....9:30 A.M.** Pastor Martins Irbe
 - Bulletins Available
 - Come forward for communion (kneel if that is your preference and common cup if so desired)
 - Our service is being live streamed
 - Hand sanitizers are available throughout the church
 - right side of the sanctuary only for individuals wearing masks & seated using social distancing (with the pew signs) and the left side designated as no social distancing with masks optional.
 - Offering Plates are in the narthex. Thanks for your faithful giving

Scripture Readings Acts 8:26-40
I John 4:1-21
John 15:1-8



- **Happening Around St. James**

**Children's Sunday School is happening at 10:30. Join us
Adult Forum is happening at 10:30 as well. Join us.**

Reminder.....coffee is available in the Narthex. We hope you stop and enjoy a cup with your St. James family.

- **May Newsletter.** Wendy is putting together the May newsletter. She is ready to put any articles or newsy item in. We hope to get it out yet this week.
- **GriefShare . . . Not too late.** You are invited to join our 13 week sharing, -- April 7 through June 30th. This is a wonderful program of support for those who have lost a loved one and are struggling through the grief process. Time will be 6:30 PM every Wednesday. Questions? Contact Cindy Gregory.
- **Women's Bible Study is Going.** Ladies join us for Bible Study here at St James, beginning on Monday April 12th at 11 A.M. Great time of sharing and growing in Christian faith.
- **Men's Bible Study is Gathering.** Another sign we are returning to normal. Men join your brothers in Christ in Bible Study here at St James, at 9 A.M. on Tuesdays. It will be time well spent.
- **Additional Bible Study Opportunity.** . . .Our Christian Education Committee is always looking for new ways for helping us grow in our discipleship. So included with this weekly update is a bible study for you to use in the comfort of your home.
- **Blood Drive this Sunday, May 2nd.** From 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Red Cross will be here to receive blood that will save lives.
- **Put Mother's Day at St James** on your calendar. Our Sunday School youth will be leading the service that day. It will be a special blessing to moms and dads & us all.
- **Continue to Hold our Call Committee in Prayer** as they await someone who can be a potential pastoral candidate. May the Holy Spirit move strong in our midst and in the heart of the person who will take the reins of leadership as pastor of St James.

I can be contacted at pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com, or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug