

REMAIN IN ME



I AM WITH YOU

SETTING.

Lord of Easter, You are always on the path of my life. You are the vine and I am the branch.

Remain in me, You tell us, because You know what it is to remain in us. With You life flows, without You life loses colour, meaning, brightness and dreams...

As I am, I want to remain in You and to provoke in others the search of that light that You radiate; the Light that welcomes, empowers and sends. Being with You is the strength of my life.

SONG. The true vine, Ain Karem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqVUDB8f6Dg>

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN: JN 15,1-8.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also 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. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

DEEPENING THE TEXT.

Jesus moves away from his own: We are living the last evening, Jesus has washed the feet of his disciples, then has announced his imminent leaving and the sending of the Spirit. Curiously, John does not narrate the institution of the Eucharist: but Jesus speaks of the vine and the wine in terms that speak of the Covenant. And He speaks in such a way that this text could be a true Eucharistic meditation proposed by Jesus Himself. It cannot be forgotten that, in the Old Testament, the vineyard was a privileged image of the Covenant between God and Israel: Evidently, God was the owner of the vine while Israel represented the vineyard.

God's faithfulness was expressed in the vinedresser's solicitude. As for the attitude of the chosen people, sometimes docile and sometimes unfaithful, it was represented by the quality of the bunch: “Israel, a lush vine, and produced its fruit freely”. (Hos 10:1).

It is normal that Jesus, who comes to make this new Covenant, speaks of it taking the image of the vine. He does not even need to pronounce the word "Covenant", everyone understands it: when he develops the comparison of the vine, it is clear that Jesus speaks of the Covenant and that announces that the Covenant between God and men is realized in Him. “I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser... Remain in me, as I in you... I am the vine and you are the branches”. Now, what Jesus calls “remaining in Him” means being impregnated

with his words: “If you remain in me, and my words remain in you...”. Once again we find a topic that seems to run through everything: the problem with humanity is that it does not know God as a Father. Later, that same evening, Jesus will say, once again: “Good Father, the world did not know you. But I knew you” (Jn 17:25).

The reason for Israel's infidelity to the Covenant was total ignorance of God. It did not know Him and was led on false tracks. It is what the Old Testament calls idolatry. However, Jesus knows the Father and lives in perpetual Covenant with Him. And when Jesus says: “And you are clean thanks to the Word that I have told you”, Jesus wants to make us understand that, thanks to his Word, we know the Father as He is. A Father who invites us, in all simplicity, to enter into the fidelity of his Son, remaining firmly grafted onto Him.

CLUES FOR THE PRAYER.

1. I imagine a vine, I see the branch attached to the trunk, I remember the words of Jesus. How do I perceive it in my life?
2. What does this union mean on my daily life? How do I live it?
3. How do I transmit the union with Christ in the daily life?
4. What do these words of Jesus call me to in the Gospel of John?

I WANT TO BE YOUR DISCIPLE _____

AMBIENTAL MUSIC. Kūme Mongen Disc, Cristobal Fones, SJ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqmjCTbbUnA>

BELIEVE AND LOVE.

Remain in Me,
I am with you.
To be united to You,
living Sap,
and to bear fruit...
to go from lethargy
to life,
with new shoots
that bear new fruits.
It's time for novelty

anchored in the fortitude.
To give oneself,
to pass pruning,
and life silenced,
waiting for spring
that stirs, aerates
and opens to being.
Sun and rain,
land prepared by the vinedresser,
Step to the novelty
of the new.
Evidences sprout
that express and externalize
what goes inside.
Branch
that, united to the vine,
bears fruit.
I am the true vine
And you my branch.
We are one in the other.
Remain in Me,
take my life.
Remain in Me,
everything flows and changes
in you and in others.
Remain in Me,
is to create the warm space
and generator of new impulses.
United in being and receiving,
to co-create new life.

SONG. I am the Vine - Javier Bru

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqmjCTbbUnA>



Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne.

C/ Madre Ráfols, 13 - 50.004 - ZARAGOZA (Spain)

www.chcsa.org