

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



## Wednesday May 1st for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

**OPENING PRAYER:** God, you pour out your Spirit on the Gentiles and remind believers of the command to give and receive your love. Open our hearts as we gather in your name and pour out on us your Holy Spirit and fill us with your love. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

## READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

### John 15: 9-17

9 As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.<sup>f</sup>

10 If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.<sup>g</sup>

11 “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.<sup>h</sup>

12 This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.<sup>i</sup>

13 \* No one has greater love than this,<sup>j</sup> to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15 I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends,<sup>\*</sup> because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.<sup>k</sup>

16 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.<sup>l</sup>

17 This I command you: love one another.<sup>m</sup>

## Notes

\* [15:1–16:4] Discourse on the union of Jesus with his disciples. His words become a monologue and go beyond the immediate crisis of the departure of Jesus.

\* [15:1–17] Like [Jn 10:1–5](#), this passage resembles a parable. Israel is spoken of as a vineyard at [Is 5:1–7](#); [Mt 21:33–46](#) and as a vine at [Ps 80:9–17](#); [Jer 2:21](#); [Ez 15:2](#); [17:5–10](#); [19:10](#); [Hos 10:1](#). The identification of the vine as the Son of Man in [Ps 80:15](#) and Wisdom’s description of herself as a vine in [Sir 24:17](#) are further background for portrayal of Jesus by this figure. There may be secondary eucharistic symbolism here; cf. [Mk 14:25](#), “the fruit of the vine.”

\* [15:2] Takes away, prunes: in Greek there is a play on two related verbs.

\* [15:6] Branches were cut off and dried on the wall of the vineyard for later use as fuel.

\* [15:13] For one’s friends: or: “those whom one loves.” In [Jn 15:9–13a](#), the words for love are related to the Greek *agapaō*. In [Jn 15:13b–15](#), the words for love are related to the Greek *phileō*. For John, the two roots seem synonymous and mean “to love”; cf. also [Jn 21:15–17](#). The word *philos* is used here.

\* [15:15] Slaves, friends: in the Old Testament, Moses ([Dt 34:5](#)), Joshua ([Jos 24:29](#)), and David ([Ps 89:21](#)) were called “servants” or “slaves of Yahweh”; only Abraham ([Is 41:8](#); [2 Chr 20:7](#); cf. [Jas 2:23](#)) was called a “friend of God.”

## QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. In Jesus’ time, the Gentiles were considered as “them” and the Jews as “us.” In our time, name some of the groups considered as “them.” If we really see the “them people” as part of God’s household, to what extent would we continue to view them as “them”?
2. “As the Father loves me, so do I love you.” How can these awesome words of Jesus transform our lives?

3. Do you tend to believe that you have to earn God's love? If so, why? How hard is it for you to believe that God loves us just as we are with all our sins and failures?
4. What can help to deepen our sense of God's unconditional love for us?
5. Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed/ act on.

## **Commentary**

The context for this beautiful teaching on love is the Last Supper. Like the second reading today, this reading uses the word love nine times. Jesus makes an amazing statement which we might easily miss. "I love you disciples with the same intensity of love as my Father loves me." Pondering these words could do wonders for us as we struggle to deepen our sense of God's love for us. Then Jesus says: Remain in my love. Even though Jesus will be physically separated from his disciples by his death, they can still experience his love by remaining in his love and by keeping his commandments. Jesus summed up all the commandments in one word, namely, love: love of God, love of neighbor and love of self. The sacrificial dimension of love is also stressed here. Laying down one's life for another is the greatest form of love. This word of Jesus has to be very consoling for all those who day after day care for loved ones, for the sick and for those who live on the margins of society. Finally, the reading underlines God's initiative when it comes to our relationship with him. God is always seeking a relationship with us when we show little or no interest in him.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom  
Wednesday, May 1 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Weekly on Wednesday

## Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: May 1, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618

Passcode: 280607