

27th Sunday-A. -Reflections (Oct.3rd.2026.)

Is.5:1-7, Ps.80:9,9-16,19:2. Phil.4:6-9. Mt.21:33-43.

What More Was There to Do for My Vineyard?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today the Word of God gives us a beautiful image: **the vineyard**.

In the first reading, God speaks about His people as His vineyard. He loved His vineyard. He prepared the soil, cleared away the stones, planted the best vines, built a watchtower, and prepared a wine press.

After doing everything for the vineyard, God asks a very touching question:

What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? *Isaiah 5:4*

Yet, instead of producing good grapes, the vineyard produced wild grapes.

This is not simply a story about grapes. **It is a story about God's love and our response to His love.**

1. WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR ME? Sometimes we concentrate on what we do not have and forget what God has already given us.

God has given us life, faith, family, friends, talents, daily bread, His Word, His Church and the Sacraments. Above all, God has given us **His own Son**.

Scripture tells us: **For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.**

-John 3:16

Every morning we wake up as another gift. Every opportunity to love, forgive, pray and serve is another gift.

St. Therese of Lisieux beautifully understood that everything is grace:

Everything is a grace; everything is the direct effect of our Father's love.

The first step toward gratitude, therefore, is simply to recognize:

Everything I have is ultimately a gift from God.

St. Paul asks: **What do you possess that you have not received.** *1 Corinthians 4:7*

2. HOW DO I THANK GOD?

We may say, Thank you, Lord. That is good but Christian gratitude must go beyond words.

St. Paul teaches: **In all circumstances, give thanks.** *1 Thessalonians 5:18*

We thank God when we **pray faithfully.**

We thank God when we **come to the Eucharist.**

We thank God when we **obey His commandments.**

We thank God when we **forgive someone who has hurt us.**

We thank God when we **help someone in need.**

We thank God when we **use our time, talents and resources for the good of others.**

And we thank God when we remain faithful even during suffering.

St. Paul gives us a beautiful rule for everyday life: **Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.** *1 Corinthians 10:31*

Even our ordinary daily activities can become an offering of thanksgiving.

3. GOD LOOKS FOR FRUIT

In the Gospel, Jesus again speaks about a vineyard.

The owner prepares everything and entrusts the vineyard to tenants. When harvest time comes, he sends his servants to receive the produce.

But the tenants' refuse. They beat some servants and kill others. Finally, the owner sends his son, thinking: **They will respect my son.** *Matthew 21:37* But they reject and kill the son.

The servants remind us of the **prophets whom God sent**, and the beloved son points us toward **Jesus Christ Himself**. God had given His people everything, but instead of responding with faith and gratitude, they rejected His messengers and ultimately rejected His Son.

Jesus therefore says: **The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.** *Matthew 21:43* This is also a question for each one of us:

What fruit is God finding in my life? God has planted us in His vineyard through Baptism. He nourishes us through His Word.

He strengthens us through the Eucharist. He forgives us through Reconciliation. He gives us the Holy Spirit. So God rightly looks for fruit. **The fruits He desires are:**

Faith instead of unbelief, Love instead of hatred, Forgiveness instead of resentment. Generosity instead of selfishness. Humility instead of pride. Gratitude instead of complaining. Service instead of indifference.

Jesus says: **By their fruits you will know them.** *Matthew 7:16*

4. GRATITUDE MUST BECOME ACTION

There is a great difference between saying **Thank you, Lord** and living a thankful life.

St. Augustine teaches us: **Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.**

When our hearts rest in God, we begin to see everything differently. We stop asking only, **What more can God give me?** Instead, we begin asking: **Lord, after everything You have given me, what can I do for You?**

That is true gratitude. The Eucharist itself teaches us this. The word **Eucharist** means *thanksgiving*. Every Holy Mass is our great thanksgiving to God for His love and especially for the gift of His Son.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

As we leave Mass today, let's ask ourselves:

- 1. What has God given me?** Take time to recognize your blessings.
- 2. Am I truly grateful?** Not only with words, but through the way I live.
- 3. What fruit am I producing for God?** If God looks at the vineyard of my life, does He find **faith, love, forgiveness, generosity and service?**

Dear brothers and sisters, God has done so much for His vineyard. He has done so much for **you and me**. Let us never take His blessings for granted.

Let our prayer today be:

Lord, thank You for everything You have given me. "Forgive me for the times I have been ungrateful. Help me to use Your gifts well. May my faith, love, generosity and service, produce good fruit for Your Kingdom. And whatever I do, may I do everything for Your glory. Amen.

"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God". -1 Corinthians 10:31.

God gives -We give thanks, - God looks for fruits - Let us bear more fruits through our lives.

God Bless You and Bless All Your Dear Ones.