

REFLECTION

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Scripture: Isaiah 5: 1-7

Isaiah paints a lovely but challenging picture in which God is the owner of a vineyard, and Israel is the neatly cultivated vineyard. God has done all possible for His people to grow, but the vineyard yields only wild grapes. The chapter describes God's attentive, caring love and care for His people, as evidenced by his plans to clear stones, grow desirable vines, construct a watchtower, and hew a winepress.

The message is clear: God has provided His people with every chance to be fruitful, and thus His blessings must be met with a life of commitment. God provides us with life, family, faith, opportunities, Scripture, the Church, the sacraments, and people to help and encourage us. The question Isaiah poses to us is this: What type of fruit are we producing with what God has given us? Is it possible to receive numerous blessings from God while failing to live according to His will? According to Isaiah, God searched for justice but saw brutality. He sought righteousness yet heard cries of suffering.

Thus, we must ask ourselves these pertinent questions: What has God nurtured in us? Where did He clear the stones, plant, guard, and wait? And what is the result of that care? Have we shown love, justice, kindness, forgiveness, honesty, compassion, generosity, and loyalty as good fruits? So, the way we treat others should reflect our connection with God. May we ask God to prune whatever prevents us from bearing good fruit—pride, selfishness, anger, greed, unforgiveness, jealousy, or indifference.

“Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

— St. Francis of Assisi

