

7/24/2011

Offer to God a sacrifice of praise. Ex 24:3-8 Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 Mt 13:24-30

In the realm of our faith, communication is often so very difficult. Words simply are not capable of doing the job. Even when we link words and actions what we say and do must be interpreted by others and something is always lost in the translation. The more complex the ideas or realities we wish to express, the more difficult it is to do so with any confidence of being understood. It is always the case that the more simple something is, the better able we are to convey our understanding to another. Bearing fruit is so very simple and obvious an image. A living individual is not just alive for itself. It is alive for the future of its kind, and for the future of any who depend on it. Bearing fruit is all about the future, and it is always a process. No one is perfect and those who seek perfection constantly face the difficulty of dealing with their imperfections. So very often the difficulty is in knowing how and when to “do something about them.” For the Christian, faith gives an answer that never fails, patience. If I am a Christian I am living in the Spirit of God. He is the one who determines the time to act, and since, as a Christian, I am not alone, what He does to perfect me affects many others. I must be patient, not because of any lack of power on His part, but because He is so loving and kind to all the others too. Faith is knowing that He is perfecting me exactly the way that is needed for everyone concerned. It helps to simply realize how very much my personal reluctance to be Christian all the time slows down the perfecting process for others. Patience means letting the weeds grow with the wheat until He is ready to send the harvesters. In the end so much of our communication, our communion with others relies on being patient as each one grapples with the perfecting process that God is doing in all of our lives.

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Lord, You have the words of everlasting life. Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8,9,10,11 Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Mary Magdelene Lectionary 399/603

My grandfathers were born around the turn of the century. My two oldest grandsons were born around the turn of the century. That is five generations. The metaphor of Exodus today says that my grandsons are free from his punishment due to the wickedness of my grandfathers. They have their parents, me, and my father to thank for that! On the other hand, the fruit of the goodness of untold fathers back into time, even before history comes to them from my Father, Our Father, the Ancient of days, who is all loving-kindness. What a wonderful, powerful, gracious image is that! Twenty thousand years of hopes and dreams and good deeds bearing fruit in, and for those who are dearest to me. What man, or woman, could want a better promise, and it is a promise written in stone...not the stones Moses toted, but that very special stone of the law of God that was found by the ladies rolled aside on Easter morning. That is the stone of His perfect law of love, the sign of His triumph over wickedness, just as He promised over and over from the beginning.