

Grow Where You are Planted #6

It has been a little bit of a stretch since the last time that I was able to speak with you.

But last time I shared the message of being fruitful. All with the concentration on having a marriage and children. Though those ideas are very important to our faith and the church as a whole, there is another side to this fruitful coin.

And that is why I titled this talk as “Grow where you are Planted.”

That is the first thing that came to my mind when I read the opening paragraph in chapter six in the catechism for the World Meeting of Families, it reads;

Not everyone is called to marriage. But everyone is meant to be fertile. Every life has the power and the need to nurture new life~ if not through bearing and raising children, then through other vital forms of self-giving, building and service. The Church is an extended family of different vocations, each distinct but each needing and supporting the others.

In other words, not all men and women need to be married or biological parents to radiate God’s love or take part in the “family of families” we know as the church. Everyone can be fruitful with their lives despite their marital status. Being single doesn’t keep you from helping others to grow. You are capable of radiating Gods love to others. Being single or not having children does not take a person out of the fruitful equation.

To give an illustration of this Saint John Paul has said of Mother Teresa how it isn’t unusual to call such a person ‘Mother’. Because a mother is recognized by her ability to give of herself. Though motherhood is usually defined as having and raising a child John Paul brings back the focus to the spiritual root of motherhood.

How many can relate to Saint John Paul’s statement? Look at it this way; how many here have had a woman in their life that though she did not carry you for nine months, feels like a mother to you?

The same can be said for someone who is a father figure. Though he may not have his name on your birth certificate his role as a father is still just as true.

We as believers need to realize our roll in this family of families. We need to concentrate and pray on this idea of growing into our best selves as God sees us. Our loving creator has given us this life. It is our job to figure out the best ways to grow so that our proverbial fruit will continue to feed and strengthen Gods kingdom. Finding out what you're calling in life is, is an amazing thing. Helping others do the same is just as fulfilling. Teach, mentor, pray for and with others, share your faith openly. Bringing Christ to life for one another is our goal. **Everyone has a gift to share. EVERYONE!! Do not doubt that in yourself or others.**

Viewing our church as a living breathing family is what I believe our spiritual forefathers had in mind. Big or small the role that each of us are called to play help breathe life into our family. Our children need to see this example. Our young adults need to realize their potential through Gods eyes. Our adults need to see that building up those around them can only make everyone stronger in the end. We need to gain courage to tell others that Gods plan for them is magnificent. Bigger and better than they would have ever imagined

We are planted into situations not by accident -but by design.

I could say that about myself. As many know I was not raised in this church or this faith for that matter. For the first part of my life I called another faith, church and state my home. But I do not believe that it was an accident that I got planted here. I don't see that at all. And I am so thankful that God has given me the opportunity to grow where I eventually was planted.

With those thoughts in mind I would encourage all here to examine their current planting situation. Come to your heavenly father in prayer and thanksgiving for the life that has been given to you. Ask the one who designed you where He would want you to be growing. And when He shows you opportunities for spiritual cultivation heed to His direction. If He shows you some areas that are in need of some pruning, humble yourself, take those steps towards obedience and do some trimming. If He shows you another in need of prayer or direction, be that person who helps others to grow. Don't be the person who stands by and watches them wither.

All love bears fruit.

Grow where you are planted- we are all meant to be fruitful.

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