

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

3 MARCH 2021

Lent Devotion/Day 15/Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. John 15:2

Meditation: God's Spirit moves us to desire to bear more fruit for Christ's kingdom. But Jesus indicates that, like grapevines, we must be willing to be pruned if we want to be more fruitful disciples.

Pruning can be painful. But pruning is necessary if we are to serve as God's faithful prophets and peacemakers in a hostile world where – because of our mission and message – we will inevitably encounter hardships, pressures and even persecution.

It's hard to be grateful for God's pruning hand in our life. And yet, God uses our struggles in his service to help shape us into a more fruitful branch on his vine. We don't always see the fruits of our efforts right away. But when we abide in Christ and he in us, our labor for the Lord will be blessed. And in God's good time, he will produce an abundant harvest.

Prayer: *Faithful God, prune me where necessary so that I may live a more faithful and fruitful life in your service. Amen.*

-from **The Saving PASSION** Lenten Devotions, Inspiration from Henri J.M. Nouwen