

YOUTH SUNDAY SERMON

MAY 10, 2009

BY SCOTT FISHER

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says that he is the vine, and that we should remain in the vine to grow fruit. I was just going to share with you some of the ways I have tried to remain in the vine and grow as a Christian throughout my life.

I was born and raised into a Christian family who showed me the right path to go down as a child. When I was young, my family helped me learn the right from wrong and what Jesus expects of us all. When I was a boy in Houston, Texas my family took me to church every Sunday at St. John the Divine, which is where I was introduced to God and Jesus at a young age.

Then my life was spun around when my dad said he was called by God to become a priest and that our family was going to have to move to Alexandria, Virginia. I had no idea what to expect, I didn't know if my dad was joking, or had taken to many sips from the cup at communion that Sunday - but despite my resistance, our family packed up all of our belongings and moved to Virginia. The small town of

Alexandria is a town about 5 minutes south of Washington DC.

My family and I lived in Alexandria from the time I was 10 years old to 13 years old. While in this diverse city I felt like I truly got a grasp on God and the mysterious ways he works in. My middle school years in Virginia I was almost always the only white kid in all of my classes. The city we lived in was full of many different races and customs, along with crime, and pain, which were all things that I was not accustomed to. There were many times that I would sit in my tiny room in our townhome and think to myself how I didn't fit in and I didn't understand a lot of the things that were going on around me. And as I would lie in bed, I would talk to God and stay close to him and he would let me know that everything was going to be all right. While in the city of DC, I witnessed, first hand, gang violence in my school and racial profiling and I saw what a lot of people just like you and me are going through in our very own country. My relationship with God just got stronger and stronger as I was growing up in this environment and I was able to learn that he is able to work his miracles through a wealthy CEO or even a homeless man that has to steal just to have food to eat. As God showed me these things it taught me to

appreciate every single thing that I was blessed with in this life and it helped God and I develop a friendship that I could go talk to him after a long stressful day.

Then for my eighth grade year, I moved back to a suburb in north Houston, where I continued my faith and constant friendship with God. At our families' church in Houston, I was a very active member in the youth group where I took part in a lot of mission work to try and help those that had less than me. The environment of this middle school was the suburbs, which was the complete opposite of where I began middle school - so I always tried to preach to my more wealthy friends some of the many stories I had about how other people that I knew lived in poverty and that we should all be thankful for how much god has blessed us with.

Then, for my sophomore year in high school, I somehow landed in Waco, Texas. It is here and in this church that I developed fully in Christ and really began to understand how I can have a place for Jesus Christ in my life. I also have so many fun memories in this church, like every Christmas I somehow get appointed by Jackie Frahm to fluff all the bows in the church, or listening to Doug Smith try to convince me that Baylor is the best team in the Big 12, or

every Palm Sunday having to run from Jerry Campbell because he keeps slapping the back of my head with his palm branch. I have enjoyed moments with just about everyone in this church, and the list of stories goes on and on. I have also been an active member in the youth group here at St. Alban's, which has helped me balance my spiritual life with the hectic life of an 18 year old. St. Alban's has been a very special place to me where I feel welcome and everyone is very friendly to me.

I will be leaving to attend Texas Tech University this summer and I will always miss my sleepy mornings here at St. Alban's, so I want to say thanks to all of you for supporting me in my spiritual life, school life, and my athletics. And thank you to my family for raising a very handsome and wise young man. And special thanks to my dad for dragging me along on this journey.

To close things out I would like to say that God can work through anyone and if you are having any problems in life, live and grow in the vine of God by just talking to him - and he will always talk back.

Happy Mother's Day.

AMEN.