Wednesday in Week 6 of Easter (Acts 17:15 ...18:1)

**IN GOD WE LIVE**

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So, he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and check on an orchard of pear trees on a distant property of his.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the autumn.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the trees were ugly, bent, and twisted.

The second son said, no, they were covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed; he said they were laden with blossoms that smelled so sweetly that it was the most beautiful sight he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them; he said the trees were ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfilment.

The father then explained to his sons that their observations were all accurate, because they had each seen only one season in the orchard’s life.

He told them that they cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of one’s life and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can be measured only at the end, when all the seasons have passed.

Their father advised his sons, “If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, and the fulfilment of your autumn. Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest. Don't judge your life by a difficult season. Persevere through the difficult patches and hope in God for better times to come.

Happiness keeps You Sweet.

Trials keep You Strong.

Sorrows keep You Human.

Failures keep You Humble.

Success keeps You Glowing.

But Only God keeps You Going!

*“In God we live and move and have our being”* (Acts 17:28)