

Sermon for Sunday, May 3rd, 2015. Gospel John 15:1-8

"You guys better have this cleaned up before she gets back, or she's going to blow a gasket!" My dad was of course referring to the state of affairs in the living room that we'd converted into a remarkable replica of the bridge of the starship Enterprise.

But being the precocious creature that I was, I couldn't let it go, even having fully understood his point. "But mom doesn't have any gaskets to blow....What do you mean?" Throughout our lives, we learn a myriad of patterns of speech and communication that provide us with the possibility of nuanced messages and finely tuned conversation, that would not be otherwise possible. Metaphors, similes, and other parts of speech, ultimately become critical tools in human communication. A reference to blowing her gasket simply meant that we risked upsetting our mother greatly. We sometimes lose sight of the fact, that these parts of speech were employed regularly throughout Scripture, and by Jesus in particular. Join us this weekend, to discover what the writer of John's Gospel meant when he records Jesus as having said that he was a vine and that his followers were the branches. There's a lot more going on there than meets eye!

Rev. Dr. Luther Symons