

August 19, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

OPEN TO POSSIBILITIES

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*"If you wish to be perfect, go,
sell what you have and give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven.
Then come, follow me."*

MATTHEW 19:21

Reflection

Often, I have found myself in the shoes of the "rich young man." Just when I think I am on the right track, something happens and I am forced to go deeper, or alter my preconceptions. This story reminds me to hold all lightly and make room for God, who takes me on a circuitous route.

The first steps of my formation and coming to know God were being nurtured, loved and mentored into life by my family, teachers and friends. My values

were established as I gradually grew into a responsible, faith-filled adult.

While coming into adulthood, I thought I had arrived, only to discover that I had so much still to learn, experience, and integrate before wisdom was mine. It was not enough to be a good person; I had to make decisions and act on my goodness. Growing into myself has required that I slow down enough to reflect on my own inner disposition.

As the “rich young man” discovered, creating oneself is not easy. Rather, fidelity requires yielding to Grace, letting go to Love, and a gradual surrendering to God. The first half of life one accumulates knowledge, experience, opportunities and integrates all life has to offer.

The second half of life arrives sooner than one expects! The self-discipline learned in the first half helps one to manage and dismantle one’s ego needs and desires for power, possessions, security, and prestige. False pride and stubborn insistence on one’s own way seem to get in the way of holiness. What seemed a safe way to approach life requires re-examination and a change in attitude, behavior, and expectations. At each juncture along the journey, we must sort out what is needed.

Belonging more to God each day is a life-long adventure. Discernment allows me to recognize the subtle presence of the Holy Spirit. Space for silence and inner stillness enables me to pay attention to the nudging of God’s desire for me.

The story of the “*rich young man*” does not end with him going away sad. I like to think that he went away to ponder what was important in life. Like us, he too had to learn the ways of God’s great love.



Selective Focus Photography of Man Looking Upward

By Leah Newhouse

For Pondering

- When have I been surprised by what God was asking of me?
 - What have been the subtle or bigger changes in my attitude, thinking, behavior?
 - How is God inviting me to go deeper and to see as God sees?
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For Prayer

The Road to Virtue

*I praise and thank you, God of Life,
for you continue to call me to integrity and holiness.
I pray to rely on your abiding presence and inspiration
so that I may learn to see as you see me and the world around me.
Broaden my thinking, hone my attitude to be more like your own.
Inspire in me a spirit of devotion, service, and praise
that I may give you glory in everything I think, feel, say, and do.
Amen! Alleluia!*

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