

March 26, 2023

 Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

Photo by Alan Carrillo from Unsplash

THE POWER OF UNBINDING

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Selections from Today's Gospel

"You will see the Glory of God."

"Take away the Stone!"

"Lazarus, come out!"

"Unbind him and let him go."

FROM JOHN 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Reflection

Today we read of a vivid miracle that affirms the promise of everlasting life. Miracles are dramatic in that there is no human or scientific explanation. A miracle is the power of God among us. While the first miracle at Cana (changing water into wine at a wedding) launched Jesus' ministry, this last miracle, the raising of Lazarus, marks the end of his ministry.

Miracles and teachings are often a counterpoint to the status quo. These amazing ministries drew attention to Jesus of Nazareth and challenged the powers that be with his controversial presence. Jesus is a stark contrast to the

protectors of law and ritual. He was countercultural in his teaching and genuine concern for people. Love, mercy, and compassion are the hallmarks of Jesus' life among us. Jesus worked miracles by the power of God and out of compassion for the one standing before him. Furthermore, his ministry offered hope to the community, as the recipient was restored to be a productive witness within the community.

While the raising of Lazarus reveals the power of God at work through Jesus, it also prefigures the resurrection of Jesus, and the promise of our own eventual resurrection. The dramatic power of God bursts into life, and so the need for community is highlighted.

There are times in life when the assistance of others encourages our growth and spiritual development. It is our friends who accompany us through the difficult patches in life. Those who love us "roll away the stone" that blocks life from flourishing. The command to "Come Out," releases essential grace to change, breaks out of the status quo of the struggles life brings; all the while, relying on our friendship with Jesus to break through the depression and hopelessness that weighs down one's spirit.

It is by the power of God that we rise out of death-dealing emotions, behaviors, and attitudes. We seek God's grace in the pattern of daily dying and rising in life. We attune our hearts to the voice of God calling us out and allow ourselves to be taken by the hand and lifted up to new life.



Photo by Christiane Heßler from Pixabay

For Pondering

- When have I encountered difficult times that felt like a death of sorts?
 - Who helped me rise and come out of the darkness?
 - How do I experience the daily dying and rising that will lead to fuller life?
-

Closing Meditation

Power of Unbinding Grace

Tomb Time:

Stoney silence, empty space, grace abounds.

Waiting, deep stillness, nothingness

Releasing all that binds

Surrendering all that hinders life.

*Seemingly far away,
a familiar voice
penetrates my deafness.*

“Roll Away The Stone!”

“Lazarus, Come Out!”

*Life stirs in the hearing,
Illuminating the void.*

Can this be?

Shards of light permeate my loneliness.

“Come out, Friend.”

*A gentle touch,
a firm hand of encouragement
surrender the suffering that burdens,
Rise to life renewed.*

Trust companioning Presence to

“Unbind! Let go.”

“The Glory of God exposed.”

BY SR. JANE DELISLE, CSJ

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support Us Here



Visit Website

(714) 744-3172

Join Mailing List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 (714) 744-3175

[Unsubscribe knuernberg@csjorange.org](mailto:knuernberg@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by theccsd@csjorange.org