



Center for Spiritual Development

# Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

## THE SOIL OF MY SOUL

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

### An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."*

LUKE 8:4-8

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### Reflection

I love it when I am blessed with fresh insight to a scripture passage that I have read many times over many years. Our God of surprises has blessed me with

such a grace today. I take delight in the grace by which I am also challenged.

Most often I have listened to the descriptions of the various types of soil as the type of receptivity a person may have to the word of God. All too often I have glibly assumed that within me lies the rich soil of receptivity. I read and reflect on the sacred scriptures daily with greater or less integration. Of course, I am receptive to the Sower and the seed of God's Word. I even pray to be receptive.

What has come to me recently is that perhaps Jesus is referring to the great field of receptivity within my own soul and that of every person. Within my being, like in the story, reside rocky ground, thorny places, shallow depth, and rich soil. I/we have all the various soils that promote or hinder growth when receiving the Word for our transformation. I am not only receptive to the seed of God's word, but moments of extended grace, God's desire for me, and welcoming God's presence within me.

I am delighted when insight dawns and the presence of God, the Word of God, takes hold within me. If this is true, then I must consciously tend the landscape of my soul. I must attend to and cultivate the soil, clearing the way with the help of the Holy One, preparing to receive God in diverse, surprising, and ignored places within me. Sometimes I must allow grace and insight to heal, set aside the rocks of stubborn pride, root out resentment, water with grace the wounded places within me, and surrender to God's gracious love and mercy to be more receptive.

Gardening tools of self-knowledge, honest assessment, loving acceptance, and openness to transformation are helpful. These must be employed with gentleness, patience, and God's grace. Grounded in consistent prayer and reflection on my lived experiences each day, God and I cultivate the garden of my soul, so that the seed of God's love takes root and flourishes within me and nourishes my life. My life and yours speak loudly and witness to God's abiding love and presence. Integrity comes gradually and is best realized when the inside of me matches the outside words, deeds, and attitudes. Then the hundredfold is made manifest and God is honored, glorified, and praised.

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Broader vision  
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

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### For Pondering

- What resides within the inner space of my soul that is flourishing? What needs attention that may be hindering the fullness of life desired by God?
  - What are the tools that help me nurture my inner life in God?
  - What graces do I need to properly tend the landscape of my soul?
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### For Prayer

*Gracious God of Life,  
Giver of seed and harvest,  
make me a faithful friend tending the landscape of my soul.  
Teach me to cultivate the soil  
making me more receptive to You and all You have called me  
to share, plant, cultivate, and protect by Your grace.  
May I offer to You the return that You desire for me  
so that Your Love flows through me  
nurturing the life of the world.*

*I ask this by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
Amen.*

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