

September 22, 2025

Daily Reflections



LETTING THE LIGHT SHINE

By Lucy Dominguez

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to the crowd:

*“No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel
or sets it under a bed;*

*rather, he places it on a lampstand
so that those who enter may see the light.*

*For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible,
and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light.*

Take care, then, how you hear.

*To anyone who has, more will be given,
and from the one who has not,
even what he seems to have will be taken away.”*

LUKE 8:16-18

Reflection

Jesus teaches that no one lights a lamp and hides it under a bed; instead, it is placed on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. He warns, “Take care, then, how you hear.” This passage reminds us that the light within us, our gifts, our love, our faith, is meant to be shared, not hidden.

Sometimes, fear and injustice threaten to dim the light of others. For instance, on Monday, September 8, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling that allows federal immigration agents to detain individuals based on characteristics such as speaking Spanish, having brown skin, or working in certain industries like car washes. Many civil rights advocates are concerned about the potential for racial profiling and the impact on the freedom of many people.

The impact of this decision hit home for me. This fear was real for a teenager I heard about on a podcast: he no longer speaks Spanish in public, avoids Latino stores, and changed his clothes. He said it was the first time in his life he felt fear. And in a quiet, visceral way, I felt it too, the fear, the pressure to hide.

The light we carry is not just personal, it is collective. It is the courage to speak out against injustice, to protect the vulnerable, and to create spaces where everyone can live without fear of harm. In our daily acts of faithfulness, small or great, we place our lamp on the lampstand, illuminating paths for others, and standing as witnesses to God’s love and justice.

May we commit, each day, to let our light shine boldly, courageously, and in solidarity with those whose freedom and dignity are challenged. Consider engaging in conversations about justice, supporting advocacy organizations, or writing to leaders to express your commitment to fairness and equality.



Photo by Erika Quirino

For Pondering

- What small acts of courage, kindness, or advocacy could you take today to help someone else's light shine?
 - In what ways does this Gospel challenge you to take a stand for justice in your community or society?
 - How can you place your lamp "on the lampstand" in your daily life, even when it feels risky or uncomfortable?
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For Prayer

A Prayer for Justice and Courage

*God of all nations and ours,
As we ask the long-posed question, "Does that star-spangled banner yet wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?",
help us make this land free—*

*free from hatred of religious minorities,
free from exploitation of laborers,
free from damage to the land and water so long cared for by our indigenous
brothers and sisters,
free from contempt for immigrants who invest in this nation's thriving,
free from the new slavery of the prison system that tears apart so many Black
and Brown families.*

*And help us be brave—brave enough to stand up for justice,
to speak out against oppression,
and to work toward a society where all are truly free.
We pray for the courage to dismantle systems of injustice
and to build a world that reflects Your love and equity.
In the name of the One who calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.*

REV. SANDHYA RANI JHA

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