

February 9, 2025



HUMILITY IS A SPIRITUAL GOLD MINE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings and Responsorial Psalm

*"Woe is me, I am doomed!
For I am a man of unclean lips,
living among a people of unclean lips;
yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"*

ISAIAH 6:5

*"When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me."*

PSALM 138:3

*Last of all, as to one born abnormally,
he appeared to me.
For I am the least of the apostles,
not fit to be called an apostle*

"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him.

LUKE 5:8-9

Reflection

I am drawn by the theme of humility running through all the readings this Sunday. When bravado is the more visible way of being in our society and times, humility is in short supply. Yet humility, the quality of having a modest, grounded view of one's value or importance, is the spiritual corrective. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks states that, in Judaism, humility is an appreciation of oneself, one's talents, skills, and virtues. It is not meekness or self-deprecating thought, but the effacing of oneself to something higher. Humility is not to think lowly of oneself, but to appreciate the self that I am. In recognition of the mysteries and complexities of life, one becomes humbled to the vastness of what one is and what one can achieve.

Rabbi Sacks' insight is evident in each of the scriptural quotes from today's readings. Isaiah, the Psalmist, Paul, and Peter were startled and awed by the truth, beauty, and power of all that they encountered in the moment. In the presence of God, and God's graciousness to us, we humans find our place rooted in the realization that all flows from God-given gifts that I embrace and share.

When authentically humble, I receive all as gift and am keenly aware that I must rely on God for my life, well-being, and generosity. Upon reflection, reality dawns that ***"when I called, you answered me; [God], You built up strength within me."***

In the end, it is not about my unworthiness or my greatness. Rather, my life is attentive to God's great love for me. God's abiding presence nurtures, sustains, and enlivens me to live, move, and have my being in God's steadfast presence. It is the One greater than myself that graciously blesses me with talents, skills, personality, and dignity. All is a gift to be enjoyed and then to be given in life-giving relationships with others in a manner that respects the gifted life of all.



Person Painting on Wet Clay Plate

Photo by Anastasia Shuraeva

For Pondering

- Which scripture expresses my sense of humility before God?
 - How does God see me, know me?
 - How do I see and know myself?
 - How do I share what I have received and who I am for the benefit of all?
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For Prayer

*Gracious and Loving God,
you know me and have loved me into life.
I give you thanks for all that has been part of the fabric of my life.
You are always ready to bless me and hold me
within your great, abiding presence.
Thank you for sustaining and guiding me in your ways.
Help me know myself as you know me.
Inspire me to be of service and loving presence to all of creation.
In humility, I realize that in you, all is possible.
May I live in a way that reflects your presence
and the dignity bestowed on us all.
Amen.*

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