

October 14, 2025

Daily Reflections



OUTSIDE VS. INSIDE

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

After Jesus had spoken, a Pharisee invited him to dine at his home. He entered and reclined at table to eat. The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not observe the prescribed washing before the meal. The Lord said to him, "Oh you Pharisees! Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil. You fools! Did not the maker of the outside also make the inside? But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you."

LUKE 11:37-41

Reflection

Jesus continues his journey to Jerusalem with his disciples, teaching them by his word and example. In this Gospel passage, a Pharisee invites Jesus to dine

with him in his house. Jesus enters the house and sits down at the table without performing the usual custom of washing before a meal. The host is shocked that Jesus did not follow the customary ritual. Jesus discerns his thoughts and says to the Pharisee, *"Oh, you Pharisees! Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil."*

He could see through the external ritual of washing -- that if a person's inner life is full of wickedness, evil intentions and judgments, the ancient ritual has no value. Jesus knew the Pharisee's inner thoughts and admonished him, and his fellow religious leaders, to give alms and act justly in their dealings with people in order to make themselves right with God.



Image created by Elisabeth Beall

For Pondering and Prayer

The verse before the Gospel is taken from Hebrews 4:12: ***“The word of God is living and effective, able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.”*** The Word of God is something alive and active ... it can judge secret emotions and thoughts (Jerusalem Bible).

When we read the scriptures, let us approach the sacred writings with an eagerness to receive the Word of God within our hearts. God’s Word can penetrate into our innermost being to transform us into the likeness of the Holy One who created us. In Psalm 139, we pray, “Lord, you search me, and you know me, you know if I am standing or sitting, you read my thoughts from far away ... it was you who created my inmost self, and put me together in my mother’s womb” (vs. 1, 13). I have come to understand that sometimes God may want to search us and show us where we may have harbored thoughts or attitudes that have drawn us away from God’s dream for us.

A suggestion for prayer today: Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24.

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