

April 18, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary of Magdala.*

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."*

*Then he said to the disciple,
"Behold, your mother."*

JOHN 19:25-28

Reflection

On Good Friday we are blessed to listen to or read the entire Passion of Jesus. It is long and emotionally packed. It is good to read "the Passion" with

fresh eyes. What words or scenes draw you into the remembrance of God's gift to us? The incarnation and the crucifixion are intimately united.

This year, I am taken by the Mary, Mother of Jesus. As I read the Passion, I desire to see it from the perspective of a mother's steadfast love. This is the culmination of swords piercing her heart as predicted by Simeon when Jesus was a mere babe. Now she is elderly and, with steadfast love, companions him to the end. (Forty is old for the first century.) I ask for the grace to feel what she feels as she grieves her son's incomprehensible degradation, suffering and death.

Our tradition of the Stations of the Cross reveals Mary encountering Jesus on the way as he carries his cross. Companion Mary in your heart and mind and ask her to share her experience, her emotional response.

As I reflect on the Passion of Jesus, I try to see and feel what she must have endured -- immense suffering. My heart breaks as she sees her precious son experiencing human cruelty beyond comprehension. The heart of his mother constricts and shatters as his suffering is her anguish as well. She is powerless to change anything.

Later she stands at the foot of the cross with rapt attention on Jesus. Jesus was fully human and experienced the needless torture as any of us would: Jesus needed his mother to be there for him. Their bond was strong and the human need for support, presence, compassion was tangible as it would be for me and you.

And still he was concerned for her. He was ever grateful for the steadfast love and devotion she had given him all his life. He calls on the beloved disciple to care for his mother and in turn gives his mother to us all.

I find it very difficult to remain in this reflection; my own heart aches, I do not want to see, to know the truth of his dying for me. And still, I remain with Mary these last days. AND, his suffering continues now in the lives of people who are ill, detained, deported, imprisoned, homeless, grieving, and lonely. You and I are not immune to suffering in our lives. I pray for Mother Mary's bold faith, courageous strength and unconditional love to be my own in the circumstances of my life and as I accompany those who suffer injustice, physical, mental, psychological pain -- and I grieve and lean on the heart of God with Mary. Be my strength.



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For Prayer

Leaning on the Heart of God ***by Joyce Rupp***

*I am leaning on the heart of God.
I am resting there in silence.
All the turmoil that exhausts me
is brought to bear on this great love.*

*No resistance or complaint is heard
As I lean upon God's welcome.
There is gladness for my coming.*

There is comfort for my pain.

*I lean, and lean, and lean
Upon this heart that hurts with me.
Strength lifts the weight of my distress.
Courage wraps around my troubles.*

*No miracle of instant recovery.
No taking away life's burdens.
Yet, there is solace for my soul,
And refuge for my exiled tears.*

*It is enough for me to know
The heart of God is with me,
Full of mercy and compassion,
Tending to the wounds I bear.*

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