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Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

JESUS' INTIMATE PRAYER

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

MATTHEW 11:25-27

Reflection

What was stirring in Jesus when he exclaimed this intimate prayer in the presence of his disciples? Earlier in this chapter, we learn that his cousin, John, had been imprisoned, subjected to violence for preaching the Good News. In addition, Jesus had been lamenting the lack of faith in the towns near the Lake

of Galilee. Then, from deep inside, Jesus blesses his Father who is Lord of heaven and earth, because he chooses to reveal himself to the simple, the lowly, the childlike -- and not to the learned or clever or haughty. In union with his Father, Jesus chooses to reveal to the humble ones his intimate relationship with his Father. In the next verse (11:28), Jesus welcomes all who labor and are overburdened, into his communion with God who is Mother and Father to him. *We are drawn into his aching heart and into God.* Let us not be distracted as we approach Jesus with simplicity and trust.



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For Pondering and Prayer

- When you listen to Jesus' prayer, what arises in your heart?
 - In response, what is the prayer you want to breathe forth to God? Is it a sigh or a groan or a smile?
 - What is Jesus revealing to you about his Father? About himself?
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