

July 8, 2025

# Daily Reflections



## COMPASSIONATE SHEPHERD

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

---

### Today's Gospel

*A demoniac who could not speak was brought to Jesus, and when the demon was driven out the mute man spoke. The crowds were amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the prince of demons." Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."*

**MATTHEW 9:32-38**

---

### Reflection

This reading from Matthew echoes the Gospel reading from Luke on Sunday. Both speak about the need for laborers for the harvest. Before going there, I first want to share how important the various pieces of this scripture are for us today.

First, Jesus heals the mute man who was possessed by a demon. Jesus has done this before, thus it is not new -- yet it is more than a physical healing. This man was spiritually healed by Jesus when he was released from his possession. Often, we speak of the integration of body, mind, and spirit; here is a prime example of why. This poor man was hurting physically, spiritually and socially.

Second, we are witnessing Jesus in the prime of his ministerial life. He's teaching, healing, and preaching, and the crowds that come to him continue to increase in size. The Pharisees see Jesus' ability to heal as evil, and thus resist seeing the true identity of Jesus.

How often have we been spiritually blind or resistant? How often have we shied away from our call to ministry, whether it be through teaching, preaching, or healing? Again, healing is in body, mind, and spirit. Sometimes our simple, focused presence is enough for healing to take place in another. If we're too busy with our own schedules, we miss this opportunity to minister to another.

This leads to the ending of this part of Matthew's Gospel when we once again hear that the harvest is ripe and ready, yet there are not enough laborers. Jesus is "moved with pity" by the people who come to him seeking healing. It calls us to question: how ready are we to move out into the vineyards of the Lord and do our part in living the Gospel in our daily lives?

---





Image created by Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

---

**For Pondering**



- Can you recall a time of being spiritually blind in your life? How did you move through this time to “see with God’s eyes?”
- How ready are you to be called and sent into the vineyards of the Lord? How open are you to respond to new ways God might be calling you this day?

---

## For Prayer

*O God who calls us each by name,  
may we have eyes to see, ears to hear,  
and the courage to respond to your movement in our lives.*

*May we venture out into the vineyards of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,  
spreading the Good News through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

*Let us be the compassion we experience in God.*

*Amen.*

---

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make  
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support CSD



Center for  
Spiritual  
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE  
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

714-744-3172

[Join Mailing List](#)

To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street | Orange, CA 92868 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)