



Daily Reflections

LET US JOYFULLY SEEK GOD!

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's Gospel

*When Jesus had come into the temple area,
the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him
as he was teaching and said,*

*“By what authority are you doing these things?
And who gave you this authority?”*

Jesus said to them in reply,

*“I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me,
then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things.*

Where was John’s baptism from?

Was it of heavenly or of human origin?”

They discussed this among themselves and said,

“If we say ‘Of heavenly origin,’ he will say to us,

‘Then why did you not believe him?’

*But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we fear the crowd,
for they all regard John as a prophet.”*

So they said to Jesus in reply, “We do not know.”

*He himself said to them,
“Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things.”*

MATTHEW 21:23-27

Reflection

Each time I read this passage from Matthew’s gospel; I find myself feeling irritated as the chief priests and elders of the people try to trap Jesus. They experience Jesus as a competitor rather than recognizing him as the Son of Man, sent by the Father.

Before I get too carried away in self-righteousness, I need to ask myself, how often do I miss God in the comings and goings of my life? If I were in the temple area that day that Jesus walked in and the priests and elders began questioning him, how would I react? Would I be over with the elders, wanting to know by what authority Jesus “was doing these things”? Would I be a part of the crowd who was following Jesus? Would I be indifferent to what was taking place and simply ignore all of it?

These are the questions you and I can ask ourselves every day. Do we experience God’s presence in the people we meet, in the many acts of kindness that occur countless times in the course of a day? Do we experience God in the faces of those we know and love, as well as the stranger we pass by on the street? Do we listen for the Word of God speaking through others as we contemplate the deeper meaning in our lives? Do we seek the wisdom of the living Word each time we break open Scripture and prepare ourselves to meet the One who calls and beckons us in so many ways each day?

I try not to get caught up in the blaming of the elders and priests in the passage; it behooves each of us to reflect on our own lives and where we meet and seek Jesus as each day unfolds. This passage from Matthew is a wonderful touchstone to assess our openness to finding God in all places, with friends and strangers alike, because our God is present everywhere and at all times.

Let Us Joyfully Seek God!

O God of laughter and joy, may we open our hearts to your presence both near and far. Let us embrace the joy you bring into our lives through the people we encounter.

O God of wisdom and strength, may we seek to find the good in others as we

live into the person you created us to be. May we be people of the light.

O God who never hides from us; may we see your beauty that surrounds us this day. Let our eyes be filled with the glory of your presence, found in familiar and unexpected places.

O God of joy, may we be filled and overflowing with the joy of your eternal love.



For Pondering

- As you reflect on the joy of this third week of Advent, what brings joy to your life?
 - How do you experience the joyful love of God in your prayer life?
 - How might you cultivate a deeper sense of joy deep within yourself that enables you to gently release this joy in your encounters with others?
-

For Prayer

*O Joyful God,
may we be the joy that others are seeking in their lives.
Let us be a beacon of joy that points others to you,
the source of all creation.
May our presence be gentle,
and kindness be the gift we give to others this day.
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](tel: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](#)