

September 15, 2024



"WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?"

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Second Reading and Gospel

*"What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if someone says he has faith but does not have works?"*

JAMES 2:14

*"He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,
"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake
and that of the gospel will save it."*

MARK 8:34-35

Reflection

The readings for this Sunday are dramatic and challenging. At first, the words can seem so ordinary and familiar that I am tempted to glide through them, assuming I already know my response. “Yes, Jesus is the Son of God.” The Spirit asks of me some deeper reflection.

I firmly believe in Jesus Christ and rejoice in a deep faith that has grown in me. If this is true, then I am also to give witness by my life, my words, my decisions, and my actions rooted in faith. I must refuse the easier way of myopic thinking. I need to be aware of the broader ramifications of my decisions in all aspects of life. My claimed faith necessitates a thoughtful integration in my being, and faith influences the complexity of my lived inner and outer reality every day. Otherwise, faith is ineffectual and drab; the words of faith are empty window dressing. “Faith and works” are two sides of one coin. Belief that is dormant or held privately is hollow and wasted grace.

Following the way of Jesus is evidenced in a manner that is inclusive of the common good -- the way of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness that is evidenced in the pattern of my interactions, choices, and commitments. The way of Jesus Christ is that of self-emptying love. It costs me something and is only possible through love. I receive all that I am and have through God’s abiding and loving presence. I am impelled to give what I have received. I give myself freely for the sake of the dear neighbor ... all people and creation.

The readings today invite deep reflection centered in intimacy with the Holy One. Reflection opens me to receiving God’s Word personally and then giving to others all that I have received. I live and move and have my being in and through contemplation and action that stirs up love and fosters life for the sake of the other. Let us pray that each of our lives demonstrates a true knowing of who Jesus is and what Jesus desires: “that all may be one.” (John 17:22)



Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- What is the quality of my faith? How has faith matured in me these many years?
- What is the evidence of faith witnessed in my daily interactions and

choices?

- For what gift of God do I ask to strengthen my faith and inspire my living?

For Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit,
inspire my heart and the heart of faith-filled souls
to live inspired lives of fidelity, service, and attention to the needs of others.
Let the fire of your love and presence unfold in me
for the building up of all the people.
Let my life of faith speak boldly and with humble zeal.
Amen! Alleluia!!*

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