

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

STARK CONTRAST

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Reflection

It is easier to reflect on positive, loving invitations in Scripture. I can read the Word of God and take it into myself and see the correlation with my own life. Today, I found the readings exceedingly difficult to reflect upon. The first reading from Ezekiel (**16:1-15, 60, 63**) highlights the human reality of sin and God's sad perspective on the foolishness of people acting contrary to life in a covenant relationship.

God is faithful even when we fail to live up to the covenant relationship with God. In sharp contrast to human sinfulness, the sacred scriptures speak of people caught up in their own pride, selfish ambition, and self-centered focus leading to sin and darkness.

While this reading is an indictment of people long ago, it is also true of our reality today. Not simply other people, but me as well. There is always a struggle between good and evil in this world. Only in consciously choosing to harness one's ego drive, and choosing to live by the grace of God with

wholehearted commitment to an intimate relationship with God, can you and I step away from the temptation and sin that comes from self-centeredness and ruthless ambition.

The human condition is at once good and holy, as well as flawed and sinful. We were given free will. God is always with us, waiting for us to choose life in God.

I invite you to reflect on the following simple French Pantoum poem. Open your heart to discover what assists your own steadfast focus on God and the ways of God in this world. May we choose to act on our free will to choose Life in God.



Magnolia Close-Up
Photo by Alicia M. Rodriguez

For Pondering and Prayer

LOVE'S DESIGN

God's Great Love

Grace that has shaped my heart and soul.

Transformed by desire that all may know God's fullness.

Love that will not let me go.

Grace that has shaped my heart and soul.

Discerning God's abiding Presence

Love that will not let me go.

The way of self-emptying love

*Discerning God's abiding Presence
Transformed by desire that all may know God's fullness.
The way of self-emptying love
God's Great Love.*

SR. JANE DELISLE, CSJ

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