

April 28, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

OPEN MY EYES

By Julie Mussché

Excerpts from Today's Reading

Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do..."

Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus...

So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight..."

ACTS 9:1-6, 8, 17-18

Reflection

In the opening of today's first reading, Saul, in a self-righteous rage, is chasing down early believers of Jesus located in Damascus. It is safe to assume that Saul was persecuting other Jews, perhaps for blasphemy, or some such sin, as he was a Pharisee who had studied under Rabbi Gamaliel, a zealous defender of Torah. Scripture references his presence at the stoning of St. Stephen. He is literally knocked off his "high horse" of judgement, where he is blinded until his conversion. Starting out with a heart full of hatred and violent intent, Divine Intervention prevails to move him— who later becomes Paul—to a place of love.

Don't you just wish and pray that God would intervene with the violence that's going on right now? When did it become ok to use lethal force or acts of bloodshed to handle differences or irritation with a child chasing a ball in one's yard? Growing up a "military brat," around war machines of all types, it was clear that weapons had a specific purpose: defense of the country in times of war. Otherwise, they were locked up and contained. Are we at war with ourselves? I do have to wonder. And then, there's the global circumstance with conflicts and invasions, wars and discord, human against human—to what end?

Where is God in the midst of our life and times? Certainly, in the acts of loving kindness we witness, small and large actions, sparks of light along the way. Hate and violence are so blinding, love gives new sight. "Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world. Let us not tire of preaching love. Though we see that waves of violence succeed in drowning the fire of Christian love, love must win out; it is the only thing that can" (Óscar Romero, *The Violence of Love*).



Photo by Matt Collamer from Unsplash

For Pondering

- How has the Spirit of God's vision helped you to navigate the complexities of our life and times?
 - Where have you witnessed acts of loving kindness as evidence of God's presence in the world?
-

Closing Prayer

*Thank you, Gracious One,
for the gift of sight
enlightened by loving kindness.
Lord, hear our prayer,
let love break out with abandon.*

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make

a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support Us
Here



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 (714) 744-3175

[Unsubscribe knuernberg@csjorange.org](#)

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

Sent by thecsd@csjorange.org

