

June 9, 2024



Daily Reflections

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

SIN ENTERS IN

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Reflection

Today's readings are not easy to reflect upon because we are asked to decipher what is sin, how do we walk hand in hand with sin and not realize it, and how might we remain on the path to which we are called? In the first reading we hear of the fall of Adam and Eve, and in tone and speech, it is quite harsh. In the second reading from 2 Corinthians, we have St. Paul speaking words of encouragement and urging us not grow weary or discouraged because a dwelling not made with hands awaits us: eternity in heaven. In Mark 3, we are confronted with the severe statement from Jesus that "whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness."

What are we to make of these readings? My focus will be on the gospel and sifting through what might be this "unpardonable sin." I believe it refers to how we are living our lives and if we have skewed the teachings of Jesus in such a way that we've almost flipped his message. An example that comes to mind is how religious symbols, sacred to most of us, are being used for purposes other than for what they were intended. Has light become darkness and has darkness

been camouflaged as light? We've seen over the centuries how the worship of evil, of Satan, has used the inverted cross for its misguided and frightful "worship." For Christians, the cross points to our union and salvation with God through the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Do you see how taking symbols important to the message and life of Christ can be skewed to mislead others?

In these readings we consistently hear about "houses divided." Jesus' own family does not understand who he is and wants to bring him home because they hear his preaching and teaching and believe he is not of sound mind. How are our own houses divided? Is there internal discontent within yourself? Between others? Are we wrestling with how to make the right decisions in our own lives -- decisions that draw us closer to God and don't drive a wedge between ourselves and others?

What these readings leave with me is the reminder to live a discerning life with God. It calls me to be attentive to messages and images that can distort the fullness of my faith. St. Paul's encouraging words to the Corinthians can be words for us today.

Sin Enters In

Keep me far from the allure of sin, O God.
May I not neglect the gifts you've given us in your Son, Jesus.

Behind and away from me, sin that comes in all forms.
I remain steadfast in my desire to live as Jesus lived.

Stay strong, O house united.
Let not sin find a home within.

Shine forth, O light of Christ.
Come dwell within me and light the way forward.



Photo from Pixabay

For Pondering

- Reflect on the inner terrain of your being. Do you sense or experience division within you? Is there a divide between you and God? How might you mend your relationship with God, self, and others?
 - How might you have experienced sin camouflaged in your own life? How did you see through the slick veneer of deception? How does this inform you as you move forward in life?
-

For Prayer

*O God who wishes us fullness of life,
may we reject sin in all its forms.
May we receive the wisdom and grace we need
to discern our choices in life so that we may remain
in right relationship with you.
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 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

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

Sent bythecsd@csjorange.org