



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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GOD'S ESSENTIAL CHARACTER OF LOVING MERCY

Reflection on Hebrews 7:25-8:6

By Sister Ellen Jordan, CSJ

What a wonderful way to start Thursday morning. Hebrews tells us that “Jesus is always able to save those who approach God through him.” We could go down the path of exegesis to build the case for the resurrected Jesus’ power, but today I prefer to think about this divine gift in light of how many people have lived as devoted disciples since the first Easter. Millions? Billions? At least! And all are saved saints of God in heaven if they died before us.

Salvation is ours always, always, always if we pray sincerely to the Father through Jesus. Praying through Jesus means we are recognized by the Father as one of his children, just as Jesus is the Son of God. We can be tempted to be distracted by that word “always,” since we might consider ourselves as unredeemable because of our personality type or our mistakes or our sins. But God doesn’t see any of that as an obstacle to redemption. In fact, our sins draw out God’s essential character of loving mercy.

What a mistake it would be to imagine our sins have the power to block God's love and mercy! Sin isn't a "thing." It's the absence of our love in our relationships with one another. It's a void. It weighs less than a downy feather on a scale, whereas God's love and mercy are very real and easily available. I don't know their weight on a scale, but I suspect it's heavy because of the profound relief we feel knowing our sins are completely forgiven. Just "turn to God through Jesus" and divine loving mercy are ours.

We human beings have a short attention span at times. We need to be reminded that we are beloved children of God. Thank God for whomever wrote the Letter to the Hebrews so we can daily dip into this incredible reality in our lives!

Why? Why does God go to such lengths to help us see that there's only one answer coming from our God? When will we believe that the only answer to us is "I love you"?



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Many of us are familiar with Julian of Norwich's saying, "All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." Left as is, the saying can be comforting but this can also make us wonder if it's true when we experience evil and tragedies in our world on a daily basis.

For me, the answer lies in a less well-known saying that Julian provides us with in her writing. It says, "There is a Force of Love moving through the universe

that holds us fast and will never let us go.” We have always been in Love’s hand, and we shall always remain in Love’s care and power. This *Force of Love* holds us gently and securely. And God revealed to Julian that this divine love never will let go of us. God’s plan is to hold us forever in love. God doesn’t get fed up with our failures and throw us out heaven’s window! Rather, divine love draws near and keeps holding us, urging us to know what love truly is. When we grasp this reality in our hearts, then we can believe that Love can save anyone.

Which leads us to the question, if I really, deeply understand that Love is this powerful and this compelling, how can I not love all God’s children?

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