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Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

COMMUNITY OF CARE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.

This is the law and the prophets.

MATTHEW 7:12

Reflection

I am going out on a limb, for I must confess that I have been distraught over all the dismantling of our social safety nets and the firing of civil service workers that serve millions of people. My inner angst is beyond political parties or taking sides. I feel a pall laid over my spirit, our nation, our church, and our world. I struggle to live in hope and to recognize God dwelling among us. Yet, my soul is weighed down by all that causes suffering for so many people and creation.

Today's Scriptures are a reminder that we humans are created to care for and make a positive difference in this world. We have within us all that we need to create the Kingdom of God in our midst. We live in relationship with everyone. We are the hands and feet and presence of God among us.

I am reminded of a song with words attributed to St. Teresa of Avila, *"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands or feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which God looks compassion on this world. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world."* Today's Gospel agrees with this truth and states it more directly:

"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.

This is the law and the prophets."

Matthew 7:12

The manner of our being in relationship cannot be clearer. It seems to me that Matthew's reporting of Jesus' message bears remembering and needs to be stirred into action right now. We have the Constitutional right to worship as we see fit. This is good, yet perhaps we have left the message of the Scriptures, the urging of Jesus and the prophets, behind and have gotten lost in political rhetoric, ideology, and self-protection that wields power for a few, rather than Gospel values and living more fully one's faith stance of every tradition. We are the keepers of our brothers and sisters.

Lent urges me to reflect, ponder, reassess my ways of being, seeing, doing and speaking. I desire to be open to God's invitation. My prayer seeks the grace of forgiveness when I have failed to do good. My soul strains to live faithful to our God who dwells within and among us.

I pray to more consciously integrate my relationship with God into all my actions and choices. I pray for the strength to steadfastly live in the ways of God. Rather than allowing false fears and my ego-driven ways to dominate, I want to live in the flow of God's love and to be God's light in the world. I pray for the wisdom and courage to more intentionally channel God's abiding presence into my thoughts, words, and actions every day. For what do you pray in these chaotic times?

God is with me/us, calling me/us to union with God and one another. May this Lenten journey realign my life and my living in, with, and through God who desires that "all may be one." (John 17:21)



Photo by Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you."

Apply this scripture to your various relationships and to your social consciousness.

How can your relationship with God better influence your behaviors and attitudes and choices?

For Prayer

O Vigilant One, you stand alert at the gate of my heart. Tutor me in the fine art of keeping vigil that I may lovingly watch over the family of the earth with your own eyes of compassionate awareness. With you as my guide, perhaps my loving vigilance will enable me to become a healer in a world of violence. Be present in the lives of those whose darkness is not a holy darkness. Be with those who never get to experience the therapeutic healing of The Great Silence. I desire to surrender my own plans and enter your great plan for peace upon the earth. Give me an attentive, peaceful heart that seeks to forgive and desires to reconcile. I ask this of you, O Holy One, who is God of all. Amen.

ADAPTED FROM MACRINA WIEDERKEHR - SEVEN SACRED PAUSES

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