

April 16, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

BLESSED ARE THEY

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings

*Although you have not seen him you love him;
even though you do not see him now yet believe in him,
you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

1 PETER 1:9

*You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;
blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!*

JOHN 20:29

Reflection

Even though the apostles had been with Jesus for three years, the swirl of doubt and confusion filtered through their reality. Belief and confidence in the resurrection of Jesus is pure gift of faith. 2000 years later, personal experience of the risen Jesus gleaned through reflection on the scriptures, the sharing of faith experiences with people central to our lives, and spiritual practices continue to form us as Easter People! As followers of Jesus, I hope that my life witnesses to Gospel values!

And yet, I—and we—don't always get it right any more than Thomas and the other apostles did so long ago. Doubt, fear, confusion, and living an

unreflective life often prohibit faith and belonging to Jesus in a conscious manner. Loving Jesus takes a lifetime of prayer, reflection, conscious discernment, and intention.

For me three opportunities have formed and deepened my faith and personal relationship with Jesus: Personal daily prayer and reflection on Scripture; long ago a 30-day Ignatian retreat, and a recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land. For me the person of Jesus is alive and tangible; daily discernment to “put on the mind of Jesus” (Philippians 2) so to know him more intimately continues to shape my belonging, my love of Jesus. While I have not seen him with my eyes, the eyes of faith reveal him in amazing ways. My heart is moved to seek him and love him who comes in many disguises. I agree with St. Peter:

***“Although [I] have not seen him [I] love him;
even though [I] do not see him now yet believe in him,
[I] rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
as [I] attain the goal of [my] faith, the salvation of [my] soul.”***

1 PETER 1:9



For Pondering

- In what disguises have I encountered Jesus in my life?
 - What nourishes and fosters my love of Jesus?
 - When has my heart stirred with love, delight, and hope in the risen Jesus?
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For Prayer

Jesus, you call us to be one in you. Thank you for loving me, loving us so well, as to give yourself to me through your life, death, and resurrection. I pray that I may be drawn more to you each day. Show me your face in the people around me, help me hear your voice in moments of silence and in the words of love and affirmation spoken by those around me. May the same Spirit that raised you, Jesus, from the dead enliven my soul so I might love you more each day. Amen.

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