

January 2, 2025



Daily Reflections

WHO ARE YOU?

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Gospel

This is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"

He said:

*"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'*

JOHN 1:19, 23

Reflection

This is the second day of 2025. The Scriptures provide us with an excellent question with which to begin the new year: **"Who are you?"** Yes, the reference is to John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin and precursor in the Gospel narrative. Yet, I was drawn to ponder the question for myself and now I offer it

to you as a faith-filled reader of our daily reflections.

In the end, who I am is the question to embrace. It flows from the depths of my spiritual journey. I must ask myself, **who am I**, and what is God asking of me? What is my mission and purpose? In the long run, it is a question of **integrity**: aligning my conduct with what I know to be excellent, principled dedication to spiritual values and beliefs. Or simply put, do the inside and the outside of me match?

A purposeful, well lived life gives me meaning and direction. Who I am and who I want to be in response to God's presence in me is always the invitation. Reflection helps me recognize the signs of integrity or lack thereof. Both grace and weakness are revealed.

As a child of God, I realize that I am formed in God's love and I uniquely reflect something of the face of God in all I say, think, feel, and do. This is at once inviting and challenging to my human condition.

Living authentically, honestly, and sincerely gives me peace of mind regardless of the circumstances. It also requires reflecting on my daily living and being. This conscious endeavor assists me in discerning how to live in a manner that is consistent with God's ways and purpose in my reality. The skills of discernment prompt me to think through the choices I make, to look at the ramifications of my choices, and to respond thoughtfully and prayerfully rather than being reactionary.

Who I am in my relationship with God needs to show up in my daily manner of being and all the decisions I make. My life needs to speak loudly of God at work in me. Then I can say with all seriousness that **I desire to reflect God's love, preparing the way for all to see and know God within themselves and in the moment.**

Reflecting on my quotient of integrity, my fidelity to all that is true, beautiful, good, leads to a "holiness" of life. The values found in the Scriptures are a helpful guide to my life. This is a good way to begin the New Year. **Who are you?**



Photo by es_sooyon

For Pondering

- Who am I before God?
- How is my relationship with God integrated into my daily living in relationship with others?
- Where am I called to realign myself to be the face of God in the world?

For Prayer

Entering the New Year

*God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.*

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

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