



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

FROM MY RESOURCES

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

LUKE 8:1-3

Reflection

The reading today invites me to reflect on my resources and how I use them for the good of others. What have I received from our God, who is gracious and loving? All we have, we are given to enjoy and share generously. One's faith journey is generally long, graced by all the ups and downs of life. We are not

alone. It is easy to see God in the high points of extravagant grace and plenty. I have honed the grace of hindsight to discover God's abiding presence in the hard knocks and struggles of my life. I am grateful and these two extremes are touchstone places of growth and grace in my memory.

Yet, much of life is lived in the daily, in what I call "the valley of the ordinary." The everydayness of life can lull me into taking things, people, life, God for granted. And yet, God is in the ordinary, too. I am created to be more intentional and to make a conscious decision to seek and discover our God of surprises in the run-of-the-mill regularity of daily life. There are gifts to name and claim in the simple things of life: the gentle reminders that I am loved, the beauty of creation, the little kindnesses rendered by loved ones, friends, and complete strangers.

The truth is that everything is potentially a breakthrough of God, a contribution to my bank of inner resources with which I have been blessed. I am invited to generously share with others. I need only open the eyes of my soul to perceive God in the ordinary and the wealth of grace provided there to be savored and given away.

"Providing from my resources" includes the wisdom to reframe my thinking to be more accepting and inclusive, to find good in others and in situations -- even when it seems in short supply. The greatest resource is that of presence, which goes a long way in reflecting care, love, hospitality. I am free to give myself away without complaint or reward, or even notice. Doesn't God do this for me in every day and every moment? God abides in me with love -- listening, attending, and strengthening me/us out of God's resource of unconditional love and abiding presence.

My presence, when given freely, is a gracious gift from the abundance and scarcity of my inner resources. It is how I choose to see it.



Aerial view of valley
Photo by Bernhard Grossgasteiger

For Pondering

- Write or sing a litany of thanksgiving for all your inner resources given to you by God.
 - How freely do you spend yourself for the benefit of others?
 - What blessings have you received from others' shared resources?
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For Prayer

*God of abiding presence,
I ask that You empty me of myself
and fill me with Your gracious presence.
I seek to receive all You offer me for my life
so I might be more Your own each day.
May I give freely and graciously
from my inner storehouse of grace
and share all I have with others as they need and You lead today.
All I have is Yours.
Amen.*

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