

March 22, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

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JESUS, OBEDIENT SON OF THE FATHER

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Jesus answered the Jews: "My Father is at work until now, so I am at work." For this reason, they tried all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the sabbath, but he also called God his own Father, making himself equal to God.

Jesus answered and said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, the Son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for what he does, the Son will do also. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes..."

"I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me."

JOHN 5:17-22, 30

Reflection

Today's Gospel begins with Jesus' answer to the Jews, explaining why he healed the infirm man at the pool on the sabbath in the previous verses (John 5:1-16). Jesus identifies with God and calls God his Father who is always working on the sabbath, as on all days. God is continually giving life; Jesus is doing the same.

The discourse that follows Jesus' answer to the Jews reveals his intimate relationship with God, his Father. As Son, Jesus does not do anything on his own; he is obedient and accomplishes the work that he sees his Father doing. Even though there is a Jewish commandment of sabbath rest, God's activity does not cease on the sabbath. Jesus' powerful word to the paralytic lying near the pool restored his life and renewed his spirit. Jesus was carrying out the will of the One who sent him.



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For Pondering & Prayer

- What is this healing miracle and discourse saying to me as a follower of Jesus Christ? Am I also being called to accomplish God's will to

enlighten, give life and heal as Jesus did? How do I listen to God's promptings within, so I will know?

- Perhaps this is a moment to pause and read this Gospel passage again and **imagine what did Jesus' face looked like** when he gave his reason for healing on the sabbath saying, *"My Father is at work, so I am at work."* Or when Jesus said, *"The Father loves the Son and shows him everything that he himself does..."*
- Is a prayer rising in you as you ponder Jesus' words about his relationship with his Father? Listen to the promptings within.

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