

July 14, 2025

Daily Reflections



A MIRROR OF OUR TIMES!

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings

A new king, who knew nothing of Joseph, came to power in Egypt. He said to his subjects, "Look how numerous and powerful the people of the children of Israel are growing, more so than we ourselves!"

EXODUS 1:8-9

Jesus said to his Apostles:

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth.

I have come to bring not peace but the sword.

For I have come to set

a man against his father,

a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

and one's enemies will be those of his household."

MATTHEW 10:34-36

Reflection

Today's readings cause me to pause, reflect, and shudder. The Hebrew and Christian Testament readings could be our own morning news. They scream of our own national and world reality, of wanting to hold power over and control of resources, and demonizing people through false truths. Upon reflection, the upheaval we are facing reflects the ancient biblical stories of "who is in control?" and "who is the enemy?" that threaten the authorities.

Reflecting on world history, conflict aroused by perceived threat and fear of loss has been the tug-of-war of humanity for all time. We always seem to need an enemy to make ourselves more powerful and to hold resources for a select few.

God's ways invite me to recognize the inherent dignity of all people; our shared community gives us more in common than it gives us threats to beware. I am urged to appreciate differences as gift; to share resources, to respect the sacredness of life at every stage and age. God's ways of lavish love and gracious abundance often seem contrary to those who have an attitude of scarcity. I must be cautious not to fall into the grasp of the powerful who stir up imaginary enemies, demonize whole groups of people, and foster the illusion of danger through half-truths, outright lies, and fear tactics. God's ways are contrary to the ways of the broken human heart that flourished in ancient times and continue NOW among us.

Jesus came to teach us God's ways and to show us that God dwells in every human heart, even if the other does not notice. Jesus showed us the way of respect, compassion, mercy, and fostering the common good. It is my decision to choose the ways of God. It is only in stepping back, seeking the good for all, addressing the real need for equitable access to resources, living from a place of compassion, and addressing areas of conflict in a just way, that peace and the well-being of all will prevail. To live as one, humanity requires knowing when enough is enough of any good thing, checking our own greed, envy, fear, perceived scarcity, and ego drive for more of whatever satisfies.

Hope is born in treating others with respect and honoring their dignity, so we can live together in peace and harmony. The truth of God's ways, the challenge they present to the human propensity toward self-protection and accumulation of wealth at the exclusion of others, are incredibly challenging. Hate-mongering is the work of "the enemy of our human nature" (evil) and not the way of God.

Today I ask myself:

- When will I open myself to the ways of God?
- What enables me to see the other as the “Dear Neighbor?”
- Where might I try to do with a little less, so that others may have what is needed for their livelihood?

Sounds simplistic, maybe! Yet, living in the ways of God is possible when ego gratification is appropriately managed, and the ways of God are at the forefront of my consciousness. Let us pray for God’s transforming love to guide us in the ways of God.



Brown Wooden Dock
Photo by James Wheeler

For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- What social realities arouse fear due to my own belief in the rhetoric of the day?
- What do I need to change so to live more authentically in the ways of God?

For Prayer

*Pope Francis wrote, “**From my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us.**”*

Come Holy Spirit:

*enlighten me to perceive the light of God’s great love
in each person and to respect all creation as gift of God’s great love.*

Help me see the other as my brother and sister.

*Grant that I recognize your presence in strangers
as well as my family and friends.*

*Help me attend first to the good of all
and to choose to live with less, that others might live.*

*Teach me your ways of compassion, mercy, and attentiveness
to the good of all.*

Amen.

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