

September 19, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*"So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven;
hence, she has shown great love.
But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."*

LUKE 7:47

Reflection

The themes this week seem to cluster around unworthiness, love, and humility. Often our common humanity struggles in the great divide between grandiosity and poor self-esteem. Or the image of being a Super-Hero, a Bully, or an Eeyore. There are a wide range of ways of coping with our hidden inner reality.

My reflections led me to consider how I see/know my true self. Over the years I have grown into who God created me to be. Thanks be to God! I know myself as one loved by God and relying on God at work in me. Still I am always alert to

learning more about myself, God, the world around me. As I have grown into myself, I experience greater confidence and self-acceptance, and hopefully I am growing wiser. Humility calls me to integrity where the inside of me and the outside of me match. Or as Pope Francis has said, “I am a loved sinner.”

When I allow myself to recognize my own vulnerability, seek help and forgiveness, accept God’s love for me, I am moved to humble gratitude. God is at home in me, enabling me to give myself away, to be loving, accepting, inclusive. I am strengthened by God’s life within me. I realize again and again that in God all things are possible. Who I am and all I have comes from God. All is gift.

It is in relinquishing fear and debilitating unworthiness that Love indeed transforms my sinfulness into loving forgiveness. Then there is room for compassion, mercy, and a loving stance towards others. In the end, transformation is more about God’s unconditional, inclusive, and permeating love than it is about my unworthiness. In belonging to God, I am freed to live in hope and BE God’s love in the world. Compassionate forgiveness moves into loving presence, and humble zeal for the ways of God.



Person Sitting Outdoors
Photo by Engin Akyurt

For Pondering

- What is my stance before God?
- What is God's invitation to me?
- How do I respond?

Closing Prayer

*Compassionate God,
thank you for loving me into life through your gift of forgiveness in my life.
I come to you in need of your healing touch upon my soul.
Through your gracious love and presence all is possible.
I depend on you and need you.
I deserve nothing, still you give me everything.
Help me to see others as you see them.
Please transform my heart to be a gracious and loving presence
so that I may be able to go into the world
and forgive those who need to experience the power
of your forgiveness and transforming love.
Amen.*

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