

May 18, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

WALK OF FAITH

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's First Reading

When he entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had gathered, he said to them, "My brothers, although I had done nothing against our people or our ancestral customs, I was handed over to the Romans as a prisoner from Jerusalem. After trying my case the Romans wanted to release me, because they found nothing against me deserving the death penalty. But when the Jews objected, I was obliged to appeal to Caesar, even though I had no accusation to make against my own nation. This is the reason, then, I have requested to see you and to speak with you, for it is on account of the hope of Israel that I wear these chains." He remained for two full years in his lodgings. He received all who came to him, and with complete assurance and without hindrance he proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTS 28:16-20, 30-31

Reflection

In today's first reading from Acts, we are in the midst of St. Paul's legal problems in both the civic and religious arenas. Paul intrigues me because he is forcing or calling the question of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Paul is living his discipleship knowing he is going counter to what the Jewish authorities expect. He is remaining steadfast in following Jesus in the face of both civic and religious authority backlash. His actions are courageous and dangerous. Are you and I willing to follow Christ when the going gets tough?

Walk of Faith

Walk with me, O child of God;
I have walked this journey so that you might know the way.

Take courage when life becomes troublesome;
I know the trials and tribulations you encounter on the way.

Be steadfast when others question your faithfulness;
Listen and heed the Spirit's guidance as you seek to follow me.



Pradelles, France

Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- No matter what obstacles were in Paul's way, he remained resolute in his ministry of preaching and teaching about the Kingdom of God. What are some of the barriers you face in your own walk of faith? Choose one and reflect creatively on ways to proceed no matter the difficulties you encounter.
 - Do you resonate with Paul's courage and steadfast faith? Do you see yourself in his actions and beliefs? How might you become more like Paul in your own walk of faith?
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For Prayer

*We pray for the perseverance and patience to follow you, O God.
May we receive the grace we need to continue our life's journey
in both the good and difficult times of our lives.
Amen.*

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