

March 7, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

FAITHFULNESS HAS DISAPPEARED

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's First Reading

Thus says the LORD: This is what I commanded my people: Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper. But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their evil hearts and turned their backs, not their faces, to me. From the day that your fathers left the land of Egypt even to this day, I have sent you untiringly all my servants the prophets. Yet they have not obeyed me nor paid heed; they have stiffened their necks and done worse than their fathers. When you speak all these words to them, they will not listen to you either; when you call to them, they will not answer you. Say to them: This is the nation that does not listen to the voice of the LORD, its God, or take correction. Faithfulness has disappeared; the word itself is banished from their speech.

JEREMIAH 7:23-28

Reflection

The image of God – with a long grey beard – sitting on a majestic throne directing human life like a traffic cop has been a pretty common way to think of God’s action among us. This reading from the prophet Jeremiah shifts the focus to humans who are seen as non-responsive. It expresses this accusation pointing to their lack of fidelity to the God who created and sustains them ... who only asks them to recognize their LORD’s covenant partnership made with them at Mt. Sinai. But now they will not listen to God, much less to the prophet of God (here, it is Jeremiah). A sad pronouncement from the prophet sums up their lives: “This is a nation that does not listen to the voice of the LORD, its God, or take correction. Faithfulness has disappeared; [*and even worse!*] the word itself is banished from their speech.”



Scenic View of Lake During Sunset
Photo by Nicole Avagliano

For Pondering

- Imagine living without faithfulness of any kind. What does it feel like? What thoughts do you carry? How well does your heart move you through your day?
- In what ways are you challenged by faithfulness to your God?

- Where do you experience God's faithfulness concretely?
-

For Prayer

*Loving, caring Creator God,
I find peace of mind in your presence that embraces me
in hope, joy and abiding faithfulness.
I am filled with deep gratitude.
Thank you!
Amen.*

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