

April 17, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

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SEEK WHAT IS ABOVE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

*If then you were raised with Christ,
seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*

COLOSSIANS 3:1
Gospel Acclamation

Reflection

In this second week of Easter, I find myself musing about the resurrection of Jesus and its ramifications for my daily life. The person of Jesus fascinates me, I cannot turn away. I am intrigued by his countercultural stance and witness to the Great Love of God. His presence is always with me, causing me to “*seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God*” (Col. 3:1).

It seems to me that who I am, my own self-identity, is woven through with God’s great abiding love. This love, this knowing, is always just on the edge of my mind and firmly rooted in my heart. Is this the power and promise of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Generally, I experience myself as loved, chosen, sent by God to witness to the lavish love of God made tangible in Jesus. This great love nourishes and sustains my life and enables me to witness by faith-filled action and ministry. The promise realized in Jesus’ resurrection is intricately tied to my own being raised in Christ.

I yearn to experience more intimately God's extravagant love so that I might more faithfully seek to BE God's love in the world. This, too, is radically countercultural—to give oneself so completely for the life of others as Jesus did. Who does that in a society that promotes turning a blind eye to unjust structures to acquire success, financial gain, and self-interest first, last, and always? A bit harsh? Perhaps, yet, worldly values often stand in stark contrast to the ways of Jesus.

Having been “raised with Christ,” I long to love, not by society's standards but those of Jesus who revered the person standing before him even when the other seemed threatening. He remained compassionate, merciful, inclusive, and forgiving to all he encountered, even to the cost of his life. His is a spirit of self-gift and a language of love first, last, and always. This is the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and in whom I am raised up to God's abiding and embrace.



Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- What is my affective response to Jesus Christ?
 - How do I witness to God's great love?
 - How do I experience being "raised up with Christ"?
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For Prayer

Loving and gracious God, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection gives me a faithful reflection of your great love for me, for us, and all of creation. Deepen within my soul my belonging to Jesus and to YOU! Draw me into deeper intimacy with you so that I, too, may live and work to bring all into union with you. Stir up love in me that I might serve in the manner and image of Jesus. May I always "seek what is above." Amen.

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