

October 18, 2025

Daily Reflections



WHERE I AM, THERE ALSO WILL MY SERVANT BE

By Father David Robinson, SJ

Excerpts from the Letter to the Philippians and the Gospel of John

For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their “shame.” Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:18-20

Jesus said to his disciples: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.”

JOHN 12:24-26

Reflection

In the generations who followed upon the disciples' experience of Jesus as teacher, healer, and savior, and the post-resurrection mysteries of the risen Christ, those who chronicled the messianic history were constantly struggling to clarify the relationship of believers to their Lord. They labored to unravel the narrative of the historical Jesus, how his teachings and exhortations manifested the power of God's presence in his journeys and miracles. In the post-Ascension communities, disciples and religious leaders searched for a language and a theology that unpacked the cosmic implications of the life of the resurrected Christ.

In Philippians, Paul speaks of a 'citizenship in heaven' that is linked to the fidelity of the faithful to the fruits of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The total self-giving of love that his death represents is the foundation for personal and communal faith, in one another and in God. Each and all are invited to place the fullness of all that they have and are at the service of the fledgling 'church,' and as a ministry to the world at large beyond their circle of faith. Those for whom 'their God is their stomach' measure life by what they possess and control. These 'earthly things' place them outside the communion of Christ's family of endless generosity, leading to their destruction before God.

In John's Gospel, the Jesus of history, in his final sacrifice, foreshadows his cosmic destiny when he will lead those who follow him in life and death to join the multitude of those who have gone before. As he proclaims: **Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.** The community of the church begins to expand its understanding of the 'Good News.' The Jesus of history, moving among them in daily life, becomes the Christ at work throughout all of creation. The Pauline epistles provide an example of this expanded awareness of God's vision for humanity and history. The Christian world throughout the centuries has explored the mystery of salvation in time and the timeless. Jesus is our intimate companion along our path, but also our spiritual portal to the infinite unfolding of God's boundless presence.

In our day-to-day pilgrimage of faith, each of us moves fluidly in a spiritual universe as intimate as our heartbeat and as boundless as the heavens. Like the Evangelists, we explore and cherish the tender immediacy of who Jesus is in the domestic details of our humanity. In company with the communities of faith through the centuries, we continue to uncover the infinite, ever-expanding wonder of a God who, in history and eternity, continues to amaze us with the endless possibilities of creation and divine love.



The Risen Jesus in the Upper Room
Image Created by David Robinson, S.J.

For Pondering

- Have you experienced moments in your life when the historical immediacy of Jesus has surprised and delighted you?
 - Has your sense of Jesus in your walk of faith opened up to a wider appreciation for the infinite variety of God present in your life?
 - How would you share your emerging sense of God's endless creation within you and around you?
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