

July 7, 2024



Daily Reflections

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT!

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Second Reading and Gospel

Brothers and sisters: That I, Paul, might not become too elated, because of the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me... "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, ... insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7, 9, 10

What kind of wisdom has been given him (Jesus)? ... A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house. Jesus was not able to perform any mighty deeds there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

MARK 6:2, 4-6

Reflection

This second reading, along with the gospel reading today, surfaces a number of challenges for us to consider. In the second reading from 2 Corinthians, I clearly hear the words, “Get out of God’s way!” It is a reminder for each of us to check our egos because ultimately, life is about God’s in-breaking presence in our lives. If we are so full of ourselves, how can we be filled with God’s love and give glory to God through our lives?

As I reflect on the words “my grace is sufficient for you,” sometimes I experience this only in hindsight. In the tough and challenging times in life, it is far too easy to think I must “go it alone,” pick myself up by my own bootstraps, and carry on. This is such an erroneous, unnecessary, and ultimately fateful decision. We are called to be the Body of Christ for one another. In turning away from the grace that God offers us, we are turning away from God’s abundant love, often being offered to us through our brothers and sisters in faith. God’s grace is sufficient for us if only we embrace and take these words in and allow them to fall gently upon our hearts.

In the Gospel message from today, I have to ask myself if I’m blind to the prophets in my own life? My congregation spent a number of years learning how to better relate to and communicate with one another in a program called CARE. A few of the micro-skills we learned from Beth and Ted Dunn were these and they speak to me of how to recognize and listen to the prophets in my own life: “Listen as if for the first time.” “Am I open to being influenced by others?”

This gospel passage reminds all of us that God’s healing presence is with us now, just as it was in Jesus’ time. God’s self-revelation comes in many forms – are we open to receiving wisdom from those who are among us?



Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- Can you identify the prophets in your own life? If so, what wisdom have you gleaned from them? If not, perhaps bring this to prayer and see if any names surface for you.

- How do the words “God's grace is sufficient for you” speak to you? Have you found this operative in your own life?
 - How might you cultivate an internal climate that allows you to embrace God's grace in your life each day?
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For Prayer

*O God, may we take to heart your call
to allow your grace to be enough for us.*

*May we pray for the grace we need each day
and for the grace that all of creation needs to thrive.*

*We pray in thanksgiving for the prophets among us
and may we understand they are conduits of God's wisdom and love.
Amen.*

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