

May 23, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

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WHAT IS GLORY?

By Sister Kit Gray, CSJ

Introduction

Like yesterday's, today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of the lengthy "Last Supper Discourses" of Jesus on the night before he died (chapters 14-17). These "discourses" are full of prayers for the disciples and all believers (that they all may be one, Jn. 17:21); descriptions of what will happen to Jesus and to his followers (they will expel you from the synagogues, Jn. 16:1); assurances that he will be with them in all the circumstances of their lives after his death (I am going away and I will come back to you, Jn. 14:28); and promises about the Spirit, the one who will teach and remind them of all that he said while he was with them (Jn. 14:24). Jesus speaks in very intimate terms of his relationship with the Father (I am in the Father and the Father is in me, Jn. 14:11) and of his relationship with the disciples (I am the vine, you are the branches, Jn. 15:1).

Reflection

The word “glory” is used 5 times in today’s Scripture reading. Before you read today’s passage, think about the word “glory.” What does “glory” mean? What do you associate with “glory”? What does it mean to “glorify” someone?

Background

The dictionary defines “glory” as praise, honor, distinction; something that brings praise or renown; a distinguishing quality or brilliant asset.

The Hebrew word for “glory” means "heaviness" or “weight.” It was used in everyday speech to express the worth of a person in the material sense, and then to express the ideas of importance, greatness, honor, splendor, and power.

In the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament, “glory” is understood as the manifestation of the presence of God as perceived by humans (the glory of the Lord came down on Mount Sinai, Ex. 24:16, and the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, Rev. 15:8).



The rays of the setting sun shine on a mountain waterfall
Photo by Sachin C Nair / Pexels

Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give

glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began."

JOHN 17:1-5

Reflection

How did Jesus glorify His Father?

How did the Father glorify His Son?

For Prayer

*Not to us, Lord, not to us
but to your name give glory
because of your mercy and faithfulness.*

PSALM 115:1

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