

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

A HUMBLE STANCE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*“Lord, do not trouble yourself,
for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof.
Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you;
but say the word and let my servant be healed.”*

LUKE 7:6-7

Reflection

I was drawn into the concept of humility vs. unworthiness in the centurion's statement in requesting that Jesus cure his dearly treasured servant. Authentic humility is a virtue needed to deepen the spiritual life. Humility tempers zeal and pride. In relation to God, no one is worthy, yet God treasures the life of every person.

A flash of unrest stirred in my heart at the reference to being unworthy. I have

listened to many people over the years use words of “unworthiness” (or the opposite, “deserve”) to condition their response to another’s need or in respect to their stance before God.

While being unworthy before God is ultimately true, it is not the beginning or end of the human reality. Our own propensity toward self-will, pride, self-righteousness, quick judgement, and so many other weaknesses, is reason enough to feel unworthy of God. However, we bear the traits of another reality as well. By God’s design, the spiritual likeness to God, the one who created us and bestowed dignity upon us, is also a truth that needs to be realized, experienced, and lived. Our dignity is a gift of God’s great love for us.

We can be filled with ourselves and our own sinfulness, and at the same time we are invited to claim the truth that God dwells within us, seeks us out, desires only our good, and loves us unconditionally.

There are times that I stand in all humility seeking God’s forgiveness and mercy. There is also the dignity of belonging to God that fills me with joy, gratitude, and grace. Both are needed. Humbly accepting our goodness in God significantly changes our relationship with God from fear of punishment to a personal and loving relationship, rejoicing in the compassion, mercy, and great love who is God.

God seeks us out, draws us near, holds us in a loving embrace of belonging. God speaks words of forgiveness, affirmation, and presence that transform our intrinsic unworthiness to claim the inherent dignity and capacity for love. The love and goodness we know has been poured into our hearts. In this we are raised up, and Divine presence dwells in us.

In the end, it is not so much that we are unworthy sinners; rather it is God’s great love, compassion, and mercy that transforms our wounded spirits to be raised up in the abiding presence of God. Knowing and experiencing that I am loved is transformative. I rejoice and seek to live in fidelity to all I have been given by the lavish and unconditional love of God.



Brown Wooden Hand Emboss Decor

Photo by Mike Bird

For Pondering

- How do I come before God today?
 - How have I known and accepted God's love for me?
 - How does God know me and invite me to belong more personally?
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For Prayer

*God of Love and Mercy,
I come before you today, just as I am,
with all my faults and failings, joys and sorrows,
trusting your unconditional love for me.
Help me listen to your voice that calls me to be your own.
Do not let fear keep us apart.
Long have I waited for my coming home to you,
who loves me beyond my understanding.
I am grateful for your compassionate love and abiding presence.*

Amen.

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