

April 30, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

THE GIFT OF WAITING

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Discipline is choosing between what you want now and what you want most.”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Reflection

The scripture readings following Easter are exciting and inspiring -- don't you just love the endeavors of the followers of Jesus? Witnesses to the Resurrection, spending time with the risen Jesus, and waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit -- can you imagine how amazing it all must have been? It's in the book of Acts we learn that Jesus remained with the disciples for forty days and that Pentecost occurred on day fifty. During the ten days between the Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost, we know that the apostles restructured,

replacing Judas with Matthias. We also know Mary was present along with other women followers and the brothers of Jesus for a total of about 120 people. (Acts 1:12-26)

I have to wonder if the followers of Jesus were still on the Roman “Most Wanted” list and if their lives were endangered by remaining in Jerusalem. This is what Jesus had instructed his followers to do: to wait for the promised Holy Spirit. This took discipline based on trust and faith in anticipation of a transformed covenant. Bottom line, the disciples were willing to wait, no matter what the risk or how much they wanted to leave Jerusalem.

The significance of the feast day the followers of Jesus were waiting on is considerable in Judaism. The fifty days between *Passover* and *Shavuot* was a time of preparation related to the wheat harvest. The culminating holiday celebrated not only the fruits of the harvest but also the Abrahamic covenant, redemption from slavery in Egypt, and at some point, the giving of the ten commandments and Torah. In Jerusalem, people would bring the fruits of the harvest to the priests to make an offering at the Temple.

Not to be running ahead of the season, we too are in a place of waiting. Certainly this past year has been a season of waiting with new definitions of festivals and celebrations. Patience and preparation are still called for, with the promise of realizing our wildest aspirations.



Close-up of Wheat

For Pondering

- What are you waiting for?
 - What are the spiritual disciplines you practice to “not get ahead of Grace?”
 - How has God companioned you on the journey?
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For Prayer

*Enduring Spirit, all glory is yours!
Fill my heart with patience
so that my eyes remain on the prize of your promise.
Help me to hold fast to hope as I wait for your coming.
Guide me to be present to you in all things and people.
Amen.*

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