



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

FOUNDATION IN THE LORD

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples: "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when the flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who listens and does not act is like a person who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it collapsed at once and was completely destroyed."

Reflection

Luke's message today is one of looking closely at the foundations of our faith. How strong is the foundation of our discipleship? The image in today's reading is clear; a house, our faith, built on a strong foundation will not be crushed by the rivers of life. If our faith is strong, we can withstand the challenges of life. We are able to listen and respond to the Lord's promptings in our life. We are not afraid to act even though what is being asked of us might seem beyond our capabilities. With God's grace, we can resist the urge to turn from difficult responses being asked of us and, instead, respond with generous and courageous hearts.



Cauterets, France
Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Deeply Rooted

Stay strong, O house of faith. You are not built on silt or sand; no, you are built on the foundations of the Lord, strong and sturdy. No river can crush your inmost being and no storm can uproot you from the moorings of the house of the Lord.

Stay strong, O house of faith. Our home is in the Lord and the Spirit is your guide and companion. Do not fear when you experience the harshness of life, for the Light of the Lord never dims; he will illumine our way.

Stay strong, O house of faith. The waters of life will smooth your rough edges and God's waters of life will cascade the waters gently over you. Remember, you are solidly grounded in your faith. If you listen intently, you will hear the cries of the world calling you into service and needing your presence.

For Pondering

- How would you assess the foundation of your faith? What might need a bit of shoring up for you to boldly respond in generous service?
 - Recall a time when the foundation of your faith was rocked by misfortune, doubt, grief, or resentment. How were you able to overcome these hardships and regain the footing of your faith?
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For Prayer

*We turn to you this day, O Lord, and pray for perseverance in our faith.
May we stand strongly on the foundation of our beliefs
and seek the grace and guidance of your Spirit.
Amen.*

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