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Daily Reflections



Center for
Spiritual
Development

LIGHT THE FIRE!

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"I have come to set the earth on fire,
and how I wish it were already blazing!"*

LUKE 12:49

Reflection

This scripture awakens my own passion for the ways of God's great love to be experienced in the heart of every person. When I was a young sister, I was once introduced as a "passionate woman." I was startled by the introduction, even embarrassed. Yet, upon reflection, I had to admit that passion rumbles around within me.

Passion for God ignites a desire in me for all people to experience God's great

love for them personally. Jesus spoke of this desire when he wished that the “fire” of his mission be ignited. His desire for God and God’s ways fueled all he did in life in relationship with the Father. Jesus is the presence of God among us. God’s great love can transform human hearts and the world.

This Gospel cited above is powerful, and seems so contrary to the desire of God “that all be one” (John 17:21). Yet, for me, the yearning for “fire on the earth” is very much ablaze today in our church, society, and world reality. Too many leaders and their followers today are promoting a way of life that is exclusive, self-centered on power and wealth at the exclusion of the majority of people.

The Word of God, on the other hand, urges toward the dignity of every person, caring for the poor and vulnerable, and unrelenting reverence for the dignity of all people and creation as made in God’s likeness. God is all-inclusive, all-permeating, self-emptying Love for us all. We are loved into life and urged to love as God loves.

Often the powers that are in control of governments and so many other areas of society are far from the kingdom of God as greed, power, exclusion, oppression are the order of the day. What has happened to love, mercy, compassion, care for the dear neighbor, inclusion, and right relationship?

Thus, Jesus’ desire that a fire be set ablaze on earth and division reign. The ways of arrogance, abuse of power, greed, pride, envy, lust, vengeance are far from God’s ways. God’s ways are reverence for life, respect for the dignity of every person and creation, compassion for the most vulnerable, care and support for the well-being of every kind of neighbor. Nothing is simple or easily discerned. There is always a cost for good and a price for evil.

Everyone has a choice to strive toward the ways of God or the ways of the “enemy of our human nature.” The choice is ours to make each day and in all circumstances.

Thus, the struggle is real and tangible. The world **is** ablaze with destructive forces warring with the ways of God’s love, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness. It is not too late to light the fire of God’s Great Love!







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For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- How am I challenged to live in the ways of God?
 - What enables me to choose reverence for all of creation?
 - What is the cost of my discipleship?
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For Prayer

In these troubling times, God of silence and God of all sound, help me to listen.

*Help me to do the deep listening to the sounds of my soul,
waiting to hear your soft voice calling me deeper into you.*

*Please give me attentive ears that begin to separate the noise of all that
separates me from you from the sounds that are you.*

*You have been speaking to me and through me my whole life;
teach me your ways and help me live and make choices
that are in keeping with your ways of love, mercy, and compassion.*

Today help me hear you anew.

Amen.

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