

August 17, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

CHOOSE WHAT IS GOOD

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

*If a man is virtuous—if he does what is right and just, ...
if he oppresses no one,
gives back the pledge received for a debt,
commits no robbery;
if he gives food to the hungry and clothes the naked;
if he does not lend at interest nor exact usury;
if he holds off from evildoing,
judges fairly between a man and his opponent;
if he lives by my statutes and is careful to observe my ordinances,
that man is virtuous—he shall surely live, says the Lord GOD.*

EZEKIEL 18:5, 7-9

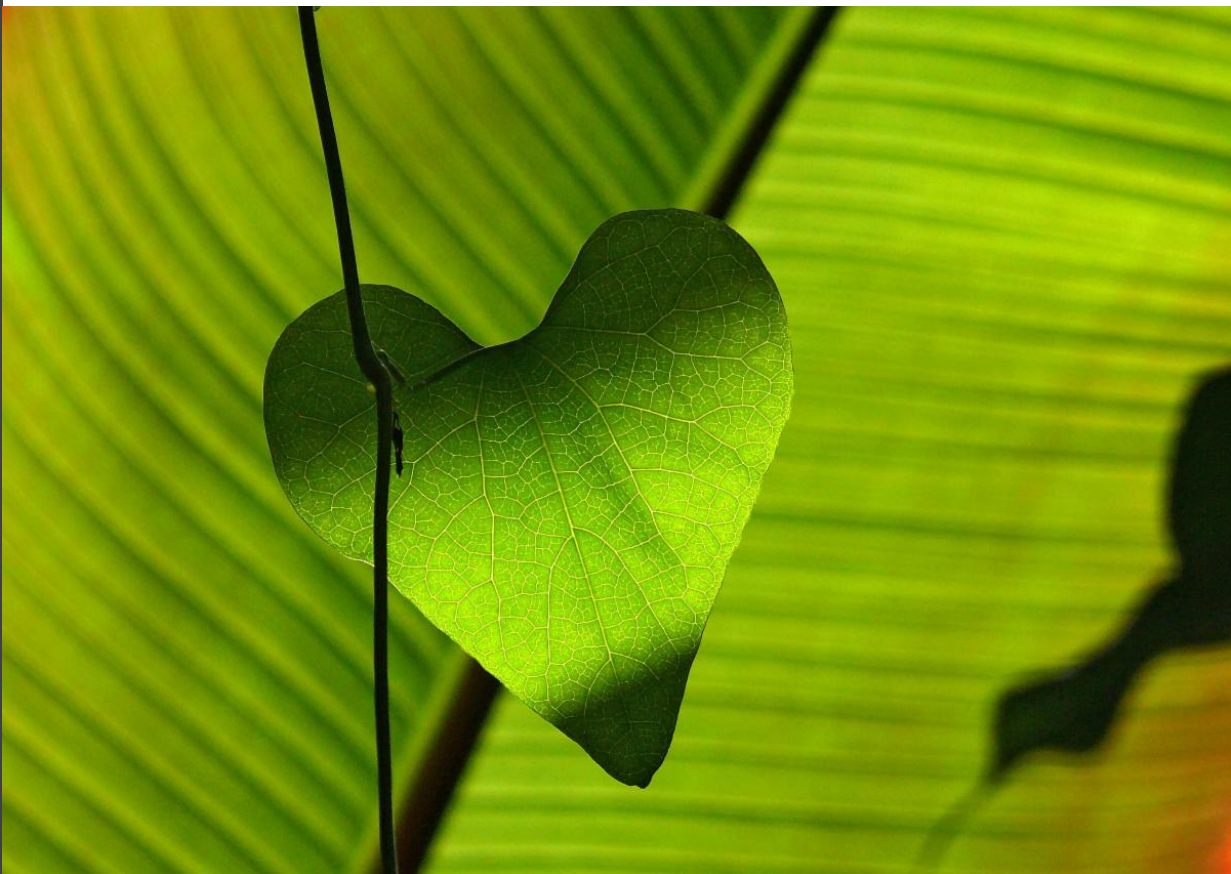
Reflection

Again today, the Old Testament reading from Ezekiel continues to call out the unjust and the just ways of living and relating. It seems very clear to me what God asks of us. Being virtuous is not so much focused on me; rather it is on giving myself away for the sake of the other. It is about tending to the common good.

It is up to each of us to choose the ways of God, who always attends to the common good and weighs right and wrong behavior on the scales of love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and just living. Created in God's image, we are to follow the Commandments and the way of the Beatitudes, and to share what each of us has with those who have not. Despite God's goodness always running after me, I also know that sin, selfishness, greed, deception, division, and retribution mark our lives and society.

We are created in God's image and likeness. We have been given free will and God's abiding presence. *"God has revealed to us the mysteries of the Kingdom"* (Matthew 11:25). So why does it seem that evil has been set free to roam the earth these days?

Knowing the love of God, I continue to believe in the basic goodness of humanity. Sin exists and is a liability for us all, but God still calls each of us to live with care, compassion, and attention to the good of all. We must choose; it is up to each one of us. Then God will create in us a ***"clean heart,"*** as in Psalm 51.



For Pondering

- How do my attitudes, thoughts, and actions give evidence to virtue as desired by God?
 - Where do I come up short on virtue?
 - What needs to change in my relationships so that my inner and outer life are consistent to the ways of God's mercy, compassion, and love?
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For Prayer

The Road to Virtue

*“Lord of perfect virtue,
I desire to be totally Yours in every way.
I desire to love You and serve You
with my whole mind, heart, soul and strength.
Help me to always follow Your will and Your will alone.
Help me to never stray from the path You have set before me.
May I live between the extremes I am drawn to,
so that I may live a true life of virtue.
Jesus, I trust in You.”
Amen.*

TAKEN FROM DAILY CATHOLIC REFLECTIONS

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