

November 22, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

# Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

## CHOSEN ONE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

### Today's Gospel Acclamation

*"I chose you from the world, to go and bear fruit that will last, says the Lord."*

JOHN 15:16

---

### Reflection

For today's reflection, I chose the Alleluia verse above. The Gospel is from Luke 19:11-28 about the nobleman giving instructions to care for his property, providing the talents -- similar from the story found in Matthew from Monday. In the Ignatian tradition, there is always room for repetition in praying over the same story. It means there is more to glean. I write with this in mind.

However, I have summed up the nobleman's desire in that of Jesus' self-understanding. ***"I chose you from the world, to go and bear fruit that will last, says the Lord"*** (John 15:16). The point of the story is to make the best use of the gifts and responsibilities you and I have been given by God, who

is the ultimate “King” and giver of all we are and have.

I have a strong sense within me, which is humbling and sometimes difficult to articulate. This is the conviction that I am chosen for a purpose, gifted and called to serve God and the people of God to the best of my abilities. The desire in me is to not only “*bear fruit that will last*,” but to draw all people into God’s love and alert everyone I meet to God’s abiding presence and love for them. Love is the “*fruit that lasts*.” Love is all one takes within their soul when leaving this world. Love is who God is and who we are meant to be, especially in a seemingly hostile and conflicted society and world community.

It is the experience of being loved that enables me to grow, change, develop, and use all the experiences and graces received to make the world a better place. The loving goodness of God is what makes it possible to “pay it forward.” In the current world reality, where greed and violence seem to rule the day in our global community, people of good will, believers in God’s abiding love and presence, are impelled to send forth positive, loving, life-giving energy into the world by our choices, our actions, our words, and our being aware of beauty, goodness, truth, and loving attention.

The impulse to respond to negative energy with positive actions, thoughts, and prayer has power in itself. This is known as “the butterfly effect.” The flow of energy rests on the notion that the world is deeply interconnected, such that one small occurrence can influence a much larger complex system.

So, let us think before we react and seek to find the good in this world ... then send out into our beautiful, yet wounded, world all the positive energy for life, love, compassion, mercy, and hope that flows from God’s abiding presence in our lives. Let us “bear fruit that will last” (John 15:16).

---



Orange flowers with butterfly  
By Pixabay

---

### For Pondering

- As I look at the state of my family, my community, my country, and world community, what breaks my heart, causes me to weep and suffer with others?
  - What blessings and gifts of my life I can share with others?
  - What goodness and beauty do I see around me?
  - What are the blessings of God's great love I am impelled to send into the world?
- 

### For Prayer

*Loving and gracious God,  
I come to you with a mixture of disillusionment and sadness  
as I reflect upon the state of hostility, violence, and oppression  
I see each day in our world.  
My heart breaks.  
I sense that your own heart breaks  
and that you also weep with the destruction*



*of lives of children and adults who suffer needlessly  
from human violence and natural disaster.  
You set humanity free to choose life or death, evil or goodness.  
You have invited us to “go forth and bear fruit that will last.”  
Help me to send forth all the love, compassion, and mercy possible  
from my own soul.  
Show me how to choose life  
and send forth creative, life-giving, loving energy  
into the mix of current affairs.  
You have called me to serve in love and live in your ways.  
Please strengthen me for this journey through the realities of life today.  
Amen.*

---

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make  
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

[Support Us Here](#)



***Do you know someone who would like to receive  
Daily Reflections? Please forward freely!***

---



[Visit Website](#)[714-744-3172](#)[Join Mailing  
List](#)

To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data  
Notice](#)

Sent by [thecsd@csjorange.org](mailto:thecsd@csjorange.org)