

August 21, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

TREASURE IN HEAVEN

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

“Jesus said to [the rich young man], “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

MATTHEW 19:21

Reflection

Jesus' invitation to the “rich young man” in today's Scripture is our own as well. As people of faith and trust in God's great love for us, we, too, are to recognize the gifts given to us to be enjoyed and shared. All I have and all I am comes from God as talent, time, and treasure. All is blessing!

In the last few years, I have experienced a renewed awareness of God's gracious

presence and blessings that fill my being to be enjoyed and freely given away. I feel drawn into God not by all the rules and moral obligations, or a sense of duty, but out of a deep personal relationship with God dwelling in the center of my being. The love of God abides in me to be savored and shared. The God I know within me dwells in the other as well.

Perhaps this self-gift grounded in intimacy with God is that which Jesus was inviting the young man to give away. I find that material things have less value in my storehouse of God's great love than they once had. If someone has a need, I am free to give from my storehouse of goods.

More than likely, it is the very presence of God that I am called to recognize and give away. As a person who discerns God's abiding presence, my eyes are opened to realize that presence is of much greater value than knowledge, material possession, talents, and finances.

When I am centered in God's abiding love, I am moved to generously give of myself for the sake of the other, not counting the cost. I follow in the footsteps of God among us. Freely giving of myself as needed and invited by others becomes the treasure -- and heaven is here among us.



A man gives a drink to an elderly man
Photo by RDNE Stock Project

For Pondering

- What are the many blessings, talents, material goods, and relationships I "possess?"
 - What am I challenged to surrender to God?
 - How is God at work within me at this stage of my life, inviting me to let go so I can be God's love in the world?
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For Prayer

*I give myself away so You can use me, Lord.
Stir in me a spirit of humility that recognizes all is gift to be shared.
Teach me wisely, as You did the rich young man,
to give of myself freely for the sake of the other.
Shape my soul by Your life-giving presence.
Allow me the grace to recognize You in every moment
so I might do and be all You desire of me.
With You at my side, enough has been given.
Thanks be to God. Amen.*

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