

February 13, 2025

Daily Reflections



STAY STEADFAST

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel Acclamation

*Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you
and is able to save your souls.*

JAMES 1:23bc

Reflection

Today's reflection invites me to **steadfastness** in prayer and prayers of intercession for so many people who have asked to be remembered in my prayer. It is important to be in God's loving presence and to reflect my heart's desire. To know what that desire is, I need to be still and listen to the word that comes to me as pure gift. Attentive listening opens my heart to receive the gentle nudge given by the word that echoes in my soul. Today the word is "steadfast." Noticing the nudge, I welcome the word even if it is uncomfortable or surprising. I notice, savor, ponder, and find meaning in the word(s) given to

me.

In reading the story below, what word catches your imagination, touches your longing, seeks welcoming so to stir up insight?

The gospel today, taken from Mark 7:24-30, features the Syrophoenician woman who begged Jesus to heal her daughter possessed of an unclean spirit. Jesus puts her off, saying that it is not right to give the food of the children to the dogs. His response seems rude and off-putting to me. Yet this Greek mother does not miss a beat and simply quips back, “*Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps.*” She dares to speak truth to power and changes Jesus’ thinking. Her desire for her daughter to be healed makes her steadfast in her request.

As fully human, Jesus, too, must listen to the word that stirs in him. In this encounter, the word spoken by this foreigner awakens possibility in Jesus. He realizes that all are worthy, all have need of his transforming presence. Through this encounter, Jesus seemed to realize that his mission is broader than he first thought. He is for everyone! I must ask myself, who are the people I push away, or think less of because they are not in my inner circle? All are created in God’s image. Every person deserves my respect and reverence for their dignity.

As I listen within the day-to-day reality, inner nudges alert me to graces present in the most unlikely person, situation, or place. Notice the stirrings within your being in the ordinary circumstances of the day. Every moment bears the potential to encounter the Holy One’s invitation. Listen, notice, humbly welcome that which is planted within your mind and heart.



Steadfast Sunflower
Photo by AshleyElizabeth Futrail

For Pondering

- Recall yesterday's or today's encounters. What did you hear or see that nudged you a bit?
 - Welcome the word or phrase or thought and discover what it means to you.
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For Prayer

*Gracious God of life and wholeness,
thank you for the gift of each new day
for it holds the possibility of encounter with you.
Help me listen carefully to the words you want me to hear.
Open me to the nudges of life-giving words, thoughts, and deeds of this day.
May I welcome all that you have to offer
even when it is surprises or startles me to discover the deeper meaning
of my life and your invitation.*

Amen.

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