

August 11, 2025

Daily Reflections



PEACE WITHIN

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Responsorial Psalm

"[God] has granted peace within your borders."

PSALM 147:14

Reflection

The words of sacred scripture are reflected in the reality of the Hebrew and Christian times referenced in each of the Testaments. Yet the readings today seem to converge and conspire to address the reality of our times. I rejoice that God's Word is ever ancient, ever new.

I can't help but be drawn into prayer for the conflicted, persecuted, and frightened, those desperately searching for safety and a better life without fear of injury and oppression. Long ago Jesus told the apostles that he was to be

“handed over and killed by Temple and Civil authority.” Throughout the world today, there are millions of people on the move, searching for safety and a better life. Many are being indiscriminately rejected, turned away, imprisoned and/or deported to foreign lands as they seek asylum or safety.

I am aware that we are a people divided, blinded by misinformation and blanket demonizing of the so-called “enemy within” our borders. These times are heavy, sad, demoralizing, and vastly disturbing. It is the way people are cruelly treated that concerns me. I dare say, I am “overwhelmed with grief,” as were the apostles in Galilee.

The psalmist sings that, “[God] **has granted peace in your borders.**”
(Psalm 147:22)

Today I reflect on what might enable us to realize the peace within our borders and beyond. Scripture is urging us toward peace beyond any political rhetoric or policy or fixing of broken immigration policies. I am speaking of a deeply spiritual reality steeped in relationship with God.

God’s peace comes from a firm acknowledgement of the dignity of the human person, made in the image and likeness of God. God’s peace comes from *“loving the Lord our God with all our minds, hearts, will; and loving our neighbor as ourselves.”* God’s desire for peace flows from reverence for each person without distinction. A tall command, for sure!

Yet, we have been told what is for our good and the good of every kind of dear neighbor. So today, I ask that you join me in reflecting on the sacred scripture. Deuteronomy tells us what it takes to live in peace, in harmony, and the good of all. Rules, policies, and sanctions come well after one’s inner disposition is held in God’s desire “that all be one.”

Let us reflect and embrace the words that follow in today’s first reading.

***And now, [O people] what does the LORD,
your God, ask of you but to fear the LORD,
your God, and follow his ways exactly,
to love and serve the LORD, your God,
with all your heart and all your soul,
to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD***

***The LORD of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome,
who has no favorites, accepts no bribes;
who executes justice for the orphan and the widow,
and befriends the alien, feeding and clothing him.***

***So you too must befriend the alien,
for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.***

DEUTERONOMY 10:12-14, 17-20



For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- Which word or phrase attracts me? Ponder its meaning.
 - Which word or phrase do I resist? What makes this true?
 - To what might God be inviting me at this time?
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For Prayer

*God of compassion and mercy,
I come to you seeking solace for my weary spirit.
I am confronted by the pressing needs
of millions of people searching for safety.
In a world often marred by conflict and turmoil,
the power of collective prayer for peace is a beacon of hope.
Be our consoling presence as I unite with You
and my neighbors in prayer for peace and a more expansive heart.
Please show me what is mine to do
to be a welcoming and consoling presence, as you are.
I pray for **Peace** in my family, neighborhood, and in the world.
Hollow a space within my heart to hold a special place
offering solace and a vision of a harmonious global community.
Amen.*

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