

March 30, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

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HEARING GOD'S VOICE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

*"If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts."*

PSALM 95:8

Reflection

Today, the Gospel of John (8:51-59) continues the challenging conversation between Jesus and the Temple leaders. Confusion and the misinterpretation of Jesus' identity cause conflict for the keepers of the Covenant tradition. Their harsh judgment and adversarial stance seem to hinder any exploration, understanding, or acceptance.

Reflecting on this reading reinforces in me a sense of dread and impending doom for Jesus. Can't he just fly under the radar? It is the fifth week of Lent, and we are moving toward Holy Week, so the tension necessarily mounts. I strain to listen to "hear his voice" and pray that my heart is not hardened to the voice of God at work in me and in the world, then and today.

In human nature, there has always been a tendency to assume that we know what God is doing, and asking of us and others. If only we keep the “rules” and the tradition we will be sure to know. The old maxim, “Keep the rules and the rules will keep you,” too often seems to be the word of the day. Yet, we are always invited to keep an open mind and an open heart to the realities of life, and to the presence of God with us.

We hear his voice in the cries of people who are poor and marginalized, in refugees, and in people struggling at the edges of life. We hear God’s voice in those who seek relief from suffering—physical and emotional—and from the pains of mental illness. We hear God’s voice in lonely and isolated elders and in latch-key children. We hear God’s voice in those who doubt themselves and are seemingly lost in behaviors that cause them to displace their God-given dignity.

We desire to hear God’s voice, the voice of Jesus—in prayer, silent reflection, and liturgical services. What is God saying to us today concerning our circle of life and influence? Please, dear God, keep the ears of our minds and hearts alert to the ordinary and surprising ways you come to us.

These narratives of conflict with the leaders of the Temple, the community, and the state seem to seep into our own lives as well. We are drawn to silent prayer and to rest in God’s presence.



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For Pondering

- What are the ordinary ways I perceive God's voice in my life?
 - What are the surprising and challenging ways God has spoken to me?
 - What helps me to stay attuned to the voice of God each day? Right now?
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Closing Prayer

Gracious and Loving God, help me hear your voice in unexpected people and circumstances that challenge me and my perceived truth and comfort zone. Attune my heart to your heart as I rely on my relationship with you, and the myriad ways you come to me each day. Today, as I hear your voice, may my heart be supple and attentive. Amen.

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