

May 4, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

"I HAVE CHOSEN YOU"

By Elisabeth Beall

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first.

If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own;

but because you do not belong to the world,

*and **I have chosen you out of the world,***

the world hates you."

JOHN 15:18-19

Reflection

It's only natural that we typically think of faith from our point of view, rather than God's.

We may think how difficult it is to keep and grow our faith, to understand the graces and gifts God has showered upon us, to discern how we are to use those

gifts for God's glory, to care for creation, to love the dear neighbor.

We often dwell on the challenges of staying true to the teachings of our faith in a world that is complicated and moves incredibly fast. We may even realize that each day we must recommit to God – just as a husband and wife must recommit to their marriage afresh each day, or a priest or religious must commit to his or her vocation afresh each day.

Set all those things aside right now, this minute, and try to take God's point of view.

Forget about all the choices we make – to follow God's commandments, to sustain our faith, to love the dear neighbor, to be in the world but not of it. Think instead of the choice God has made.

God has chosen you.

God chooses to love you; God chose to create you. And as it says in Genesis, "God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).



Couple holding each other's hands
Photo by Achraf Alan

For Pondering

- Jesus says, “I have chosen you out of the world.” How does this impact your relationship with him, and with the triune God?

- God chose to create you, as well as all the people around you (those you care for, and those you don't). What does it mean to you to realize how precious you, and the people around you, are?
 - Do you struggle with the idea of being in the world, but not of it? Spend some time praying about this challenge.
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For Prayer

*Creator God,
Thank you for choosing me.
Thank you for the many gifts you have showered upon me,
starting with my very life.
Help me to remember always that I am of you, and not of the world.
Help me to choose you every moment of every day.
Amen.*

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