



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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LISTEN TO GOD'S VOICE

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Responsorial Psalm

6 *Come, let us bow down and worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.*

7 *For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds,
the flock he guides.*

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:

8 *"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,*

9 *Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works."*

10 *Forty years I was wearied of that generation;
I said: "This people's heart goes astray,
they do not know my ways."*

11 *Therefore I swore in my anger:*
“They shall never enter my rest.”

PSALM 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11

Reflection

This second part of Psalm 95 confronts the people of the covenant. In verse 6 they are called to worship “the LORD who made us.” While bowing down and kneeling are signs of the recognition of God’s power, the key invitation is to “hear his voice.” In other words, Israel is challenged to listen to God. This listening means surrendering to the Holy One . . . standing with open hands.

“Hardened hearts” and “testing” God refers to refusing to participate in the partnership covenant. The basic question raised to God’s chosen flock is: “Does your behavior actually show that you are God’s people?” The failure to commit wholeheartedly to God is highlighted along with the consequences that are not of God’s choice but rather of the people’s making. The obedience to which Israel is summoned is contrasted with the memory of Israel’s notorious disobedience in the wilderness right after the departure from Egypt [vv. 8-9]. This psalm encourages contemporary Israel not to repeat the infidelity of ancient times.



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For Pondering

- Specifically, what behaviors of mine show that I live out of covenant relationship with God?
 - Where do I notice God's presence and activity in our relationship?
 - Today I ask my God...
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For Prayer

Pray this translation of today's responsorial psalm out loud if possible and return to the phrase that captures your attention. Listen. What is God saying to you? What is your response?

*Come, sing with joy to God,
shout to our savior, our rock.
Enter God's presence with praise,
enter with shouting and song.*

*A great God is the LORD,
over the gods like a king.
God cradles the depths of the earth,
holds fast the mountain peaks.
God shaped the ocean and owns it,
formed the earth by hand.*

*Come, bow down and worship,
kneel to the LORD our maker.
This is our God, our shepherd,
we are the flock led with care.*

*Listen today to God's voice:
"Harden no heart as at Meribah,
on that day in the desert at Massah.
There your people tried me,
though they had seen my work.*

*"Forty years with that lot!
I said: They are perverse,
they do not accept my ways.
So I swore in anger:
They shall not enter my rest."*

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