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Center for
Spiritual
Development

Daily Reflections

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

STRETCHING OUT A HAND

By Lucy Dominguez

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"The person who is trustworthy in very small matters
is also trustworthy in great ones;
and the person who is dishonest in very small matters
is also dishonest in great ones.*

*If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth,
who will trust you with true wealth?*

*If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another,
who will give you what is yours?*

No servant can serve two masters.

*He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve both God and mammon."*

LUKE 16:10-13

Reflection

This gospel reminds us that faithfulness is not measured only by grand gestures, but by the quiet choices we make each day. In other words, Jesus points us to the small matters, the hidden decisions, the unnoticed moments, and the ways we treat people when no one is watching. These seemingly ordinary actions shape our characters and reveal where our hearts truly lie.

This idea comes alive for me in my own family. I always say that my best teacher is my seven-year-old son. I watch him live in freedom every day. He walks up to any child, stretches out his hand, and says, *"Hi! I'm Francis! What's your name? Do you want to play?"* It doesn't matter if we are at the playground, in the grocery store, or in line for a ride at Disneyland; he greets each child with the same openness. He doesn't care about what they are wearing, whether they are a boy or a girl, or the color of their skin. He simply sees another child and wants to connect with them.

Watching him, I realize that through these actions, he is trustworthy in the small things, simple acts of kindness, the unguarded willingness to see another as a friend. This perspective helps me understand what Jesus may be asking of us: to be faithful in the little ways of love so that we can be entrusted with the greater riches of God's kingdom.

Building on Jesus' warning that no one can serve two masters, my son's example further reminds me that when our hearts are free, free from prejudice, free from fear, free from the need to control, we are able to give ourselves fully to God. In turn, serving God in the "small matters" of daily life, greeting others with kindness, seeing them with compassion, and reaching out in love, forms us into people who can be entrusted with much.

With this in mind, perhaps today the invitation is simple: to stretch out our hand, to greet another without judgment, and to let our small, faithful acts of love reveal the One Master we serve.



Photo by Zurijeta

For Pondering

- In what "small matters" of my daily life is God inviting me to be more faithful?
- Where do I notice divided loyalties in my heart, trying to serve both God and something else?
- How might I practice the childlike openness of Francis today by reaching out to someone without judgment or hesitation?

For Prayer

Nothing is Too Small for God

*Let your prayers be about the things that really interest you.
The more minute and individualizing a prayer is, the more real it will be.
You are coming to One to whom the little and the great are all the same.*

*Nothing is below his sympathy, nothing is above his power.
And take care, when prayer is gone up, to look up, David-like,
and watch for the arrow's fall.
It will fall, feathered with blessing,
though the descent and the spot may be very different
from what you looked for.*

REV. J. VAUGHAN

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