

November 8, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

KEEPING GOD'S WORD

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

*"Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
the love of God is truly perfected in him."*

1 JOHN 2:5

Reflection

The Alleluia verse for today awakened in me the question, "What does keeping God's word mean in practical terms?" Sacred Scripture is replete with the Word spoken, proclaimed, and lived by the Prophets and revealed in the stories of people who search for God, run from God, choose life, and sometimes choose death. When reflected upon, scripture provides us with the insight on how and how not to live our lives in God's presence.

Just reading the scriptures or telling the stories is not enough. Nor is literal

acceptance helpful. Rather, I need to reflect on the lesson, to ponder the meaning revealed there and apply it to my own life. Such reflection can be challenging, yet nourishing and instructive. My relationship with God is meant to inform my living and lead to personal transformation into the person God intends me to be.

Over the centuries saintly people have discovered unique approaches to encountering God. No one way fits everyone. We, too, seek the way of prayer that fits us personally at each stage of life. Here are a few examples.

Lectio Divine offers a manner of holy reading, study, reflection, response and resting in the Word. While all prayer styles begin with holy reading and listening, each style of prayer employs a different aspect of our humanity.

Thomistic Prayer implores the intellect and offers a logical patterned study by reflecting on the how, when, where, with whom of the scripture in my life.

Franciscan Prayer opens us to reflect on the beauty, goodness, power, wisdom, and balance of creation within the Word of God that surrounds us and speaks to one's personal story.

Ignatian-Style Prayer highlights one's imagination and senses to place one in the scene and personally engage in the story or text, allowing it to reveal a personal message or invitation.

Augustinian Prayer invites application of the word to one's own times and lived experience. I seek to glean what God is revealing to me for my life and in the world where I find myself.

And that is not all. To live the word of God requires pondering, broadening my perspective, change, and personal growth. It sometimes challenges my way of being and relating. Engaging the Word of God personally informs my life, my decisions, choices, actions, to live more steadfastly God's great love for me and the whole of creation. My life with God influences my living and relating, so the ***“love of God is perfected in me.”***



Person Holding Opened Book

Photo by Eduardo Braga

For Pondering

- How has my engagement in God's Word informed my life?
 - How am I different today than my younger, past self?
 - How am I more open, loving, conscious of God's presence?
 - What are the specific scriptures that have been significant? Why? How?
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For Prayer

*O God, Creator and Beloved Companion,
you are the author of being and life.*

*Inspire in me a spirit of devotion, service, and praise,
that I may give you glory in everything I think, feel, say, and do,
through Jesus Christ.*

Amen.

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