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Daily Reflections



WE ARE MADE IMPERISHABLE IN LOVE

By David C. Robinson, SJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings

God formed us to be imperishable; in the image of his own nature he made us.... Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

WISDOM 2:23, 3:9

“When you have done all you have been commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.’”

LUKE 17:10

Reflection

In our scriptures, our religious teachings, and our theologies, we are constantly

drawn to an ever more profound reflection on the love of God—within us, around us, and beyond us. We have such a plenitude of inner experiences, from the simplest intimacies of the heart to the grandest vistas of the soul, that we encounter in our lives of faith. In the end, we are left voiceless, unable to contain or communicate the extraordinary reality that is the foundation and the growing edge of our living faith.

If we stop to internalize a few modest phrases from Wisdom, we can quickly recognize a truth as simple as breath and as expansive as the heavens: **God formed us to be imperishable; in the image of his own nature he made us.... Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.** Can we digest the grandeur of our identity as a people ‘formed to be imperishable?’ This is not merely immortality; it is an affirmation of the unity of being we share with the God who made us ‘in the image of his own nature.’ Our authentic ‘trust in God’ is not transactional. It is relational at its root, and its fruit is ‘understanding the truth’ that is the God who leads us to ‘abiding with him in love.’ The ‘holy ones’ who seek union receive ‘grace and mercy’ because God’s ‘care is with his elect.’ In a few short sentences, we are immersed in a complexity beyond comprehension, yet joined to a perfect love that is deeper and more fundamental than life itself.

Luke’s parable might seem to negate the intimacy of Wisdom, but its core intention is the same. As those who seek to live as the servants and spokespersons of the love which has set us free and filled us with the light of grace, we are not negotiating status when we give ourselves to God’s people and God’s world. All our efforts or desires to serve without limits cannot be attached to a reward or compensation. When we stop to rest, we are not seeking acknowledgment or elevation within God’s family. Our giving is our spiritual fulfillment, as Jesus’ own being was endlessly channeled to God’s neediest children. His one and only return was mutuality of love. Our ultimate gift is the same, complete, and without negotiation of heart or mind.



Jesus Offers His Very Heart
Image created by David Robinson, S.J.

For Pondering

- Have you experienced a love that was so simple and direct that you had no words to express it?

- How has your understanding of love grown and matured through the years?
- What has the love of God meant to you in your walk of faith?

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