

August 18, 2025

Daily Reflections



WORLDLY ATTACHMENT OR PERFECTION?

By Sister Bernie Inocencio, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings

Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, he would be with the judge and save them from the power of their enemies as long as the judge lived. The LORD would change his mind when they groaned in their affliction under their oppressors. But when the judge died, they would relapse and do worse than their ancestors, following other gods in service and worship, relinquishing none of their evil practices or stubborn conduct.

JUDGES 2:18-19

Many times did he rescue them, but they embittered him with their counsels. Yet he had regard for their affliction when he heard their cry.

PSALM 106:43-44

"There is only One who is good. ... If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come,

follow me."

MATTHEW 19:17, 21

Reflection

Click here for the full texts of the readings for today.

As part of our human condition, we are persistently confronted with the tension of living in a material world and the inner call to holiness.

The first reading shows us the human cycle of imperfection. There is a tendency for us humans to commit our mistakes repeatedly. In response to our mistakes, God may seem to be angry, yet we can always count on God's steadfast magnanimity.

This was echoed in the Psalm, which emphasizes the contrast between human weakness and God's steadfast love, highlighting the depth of divine grace despite human failings.

The Gospel from Matthew tells us that only God is the Perfect One. Perfection is not worthiness. We are not worthy because we are perfect. Instead, we are invited to radical discipleship by totally trusting in the One that is perfect. **Do we embrace the profound and ongoing mercy of God? How do we respond to this grace? How do we prioritize our relationship with God, detaching from that which hinders us from totally surrendering to God?**

Radical discipleship equates to total abandonment to God, whole mind, body, and soul. There is an inadequacy in merely keeping the commandments. We can do innumerable virtuous acts; those are just little beginnings. The essential part is the relationship we have with God. Total surrender to God -- just like Jesus surrendered himself to death for the forgiveness of our sins. It is the total emptying of ourselves that is called upon in radical discipleship.



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For Pondering

- What hinders you from having a deeper relationship with God, from surrendering to God's will?
- How are you mindful of God's presence every moment of your life?
- You have been busy working 60 hours per week. This has been going on for a month now. You miss going to daily Mass. Do you stop, take a rest, and just be silent? How will you create a space for God?
- Your loved one was put on hospice. The hospice doctor said death is imminent. How do you deal with this knowledge? What do you do in this situation?

For Prayer

*O Holy and Perfect One!
Look kindly upon this human
Who humbly asks for your Mercy.
Despite my repeated falls,
Transform my inmost being.
Remind me of your faithfulness.*

*Increase my faith and trust in You,
That I may give my body,
Mind, heart, and soul
Wholly to You.
Amen.*

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