

January 15, 2024



Daily Reflections

NOW I SEE MORE CLEARLY!

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel Acclamation

The word of God is living and effective, able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. Alleluia, alleluia.

HEBREWS 4:12

Reflection

While the Gospel today is the teaching on the benefit and wisdom of new wine being placed in fresh wineskins, in this new year, 2024, it would be refreshing for all to discern the word of God as living and active within us and directing our path in life.

When I read the scriptures each day, I seek to recognize how the Word is being addressed to my life and times. Discerning the meaning is more than simply understanding words as spoken long ago, or even in their current meaning. Discernment requires that I ponder what is the deeper meaning, the intent both

spiritually and psychologically as it fits my own reality. The Word is the revelation of the Holy Spirit dwelling in me, affirming my faith, challenging my rationalization and how I think things “should be.”

The Word of God, when I am open, has the power to prick my conscience and self-centered ego needs. My false thinking sometimes shifts to see the deeper meaning revealing my motivations. Once my motivations are honestly assessed, I then have a choice on how to behave, speak, respond, and act.

Do I listen deeply enough to allow God to renew my drooping spirit, refresh my thinking, reframe my vision, and to choose to walk in God’s ways? Only then is “Alleluia” sung within my soul as I am faithful to the ways of God, which are always first about love, mercy, and compassion. Even when “tough love” is required, God fosters gentle strength in me to “put new wine” of self-discovery into the “fresh wineskins” of the saving power of God. In the end, I see more clearly that it is not about me alone, but about the Love of God poured forth in our world and personal relationships.



Sunset
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

- How is God's will and desire for me revealed in Scripture?
 - Of what do I need to be emptied to make room for God's ways in my life?
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For Prayer

*Jesus,
teach me the truth about myself
and to gradually be emptied of all that stands in the way
of following you more closely.*

Empty Me

*from all my pride
from seeking power
from my jealousy
from all my fears
from all my tensions
from my masks
from my selfishness
from putting myself down
from all my doubts
from all dishonesty
from all evil*

Response

*Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.
Jesus empty me.*

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