

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

JOURNEY OF FAITH!

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time, the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you; he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

LUKE 18:1-8

Reflection

The juxtaposition of “praying always without becoming weary” and the judge’s decision to finally render a just decision for the widow intrigues me. The widow’s perseverance in continuing to come back to a judge who respected no one, and who did not fear God, shines a spotlight on the widow’s faith. Perhaps the judge witnessed the widow’s faith and experienced her trust in God, and this is what compelled him to finally respond favorably to her.

At the end of this passage from Luke, we have the question posed to us, “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” This widow can be a model for us to follow in trusting that God will answer our prayers, our pleas, whatever they might be. We don’t know the time or if our requests are what God wants for us; what we do know is that if we have faith, then whatever the outcome, we can persevere.

In my own life, I’ve prayed for a certain outcome or for something to happen; and it didn’t. While I experienced disappointment and wondered why I was not receiving what I had prayed for; what didn’t change was my deep belief that God’s ways, God’s plans, are not always my plans. I continually place my trust in God, and I still pray for specific outcomes; yet I’m open to whatever paths I’m called to travel, if that is where God beckons me.

This is what I’m taking from the question, will God find faith on earth? Our discipleship enables us to place our trust, hope, and faith in God. It is the commitment to living discerning lives, grounded in our love of God, that enables us to take the next steps on our journey upon this earth.

Journey of Faith

O God of the journey, may our faith in you never waiver and may our prayers never cease to find a home in you. Grant us the grace we need to persevere in prayer and in life.

May faith be more than a five-letter word in our vocabulary. Let our faith resound through our words and actions. May peace find a home within our hearts and may our presence speak of our faith in you.

O God of the journey, may we seek your presence in our lives, continually building our reservoir of faith within. May our lives be a testament of our faith in you and may the essence of our being speak of your deep, abiding love.



Vermont
Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- How do you answer the question, “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”
- When the Son of Man comes, will he recognize and experience your faith?

How do others experience your faith?

For Prayer

*O God,
may we not grow weary in our quest to live out our faith each day.
We pray for the grace we need to be witnesses
to your abiding love for all of creation.
We pray that we may be instruments of your peace and love
in the big and small moments of each day.
Amen.*

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