



Daily Reflections

AN UNDERSTANDING HEART

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's First Reading

*Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice there because that was the most renowned high place. Upon its altar Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings. In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, “**Ask something of me and I will give it to you.**” Solomon answered: “You have shown great favor to your servant, my father David, because he behaved faithfully toward you, with justice and an upright heart; and you have continued this great favor toward him, even today, seating a son of his on his throne. O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father, David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, **an understanding heart** to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?”*

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: “Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for

riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you. In addition, I give you what you have not asked for, such riches and glory that among kings there is not your like.”

1 KING 3:4-13

Reflection

This passage today is set during a time of transition after the death of King David, at the beginning of the reign of his son, King Solomon. It was a time of uncertainty for the people and Solomon knew he was very young and inexperienced to begin the work of governing God’s people. In those days, dreams were one of the ways God would communicate with the Chosen People. Accordingly, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked him, of everything in the world, what was the desire of his heart? *“Ask me and I will give it to you.”* On a personal note, whenever I read this story in Scripture, I am delighted to hear Solomon’s response. He asked for the gift of wisdom – his desire was to learn God’s perspective, God’s hopes and dreams, so he could judge the people according to God’s own heart. Solomon loved the Lord and he wanted God to guide him, to show him the way of Holy Wisdom. He was not asking for his own interest but for the sake of the people he would lead. Solomon responded to God’s question by reflecting on God’s great love for his father, David, for himself, and for the people he was about to govern. He asked for *an understanding heart* so that he would judge the people according to God’s desire.



Photo by Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

For Pondering

What would it be like today if people who have positions of power over others would ask the Holy One for the gift of wisdom to guide their people with justice and care? If governors and kings and presidents would recognize that there is a Divine Being who created -- out of love -- the entire world and all its people of

every nation, with their own rights and needs and aspirations for their own families in their care? Ponder with me.

For Prayer

*Let us remember God's steadfast love for us,
for our ancestors and for those who have nurtured our faith
in a loving God.*

*Remember the blessings we have received
and humbly ask our Creator for a listening heart,
a listening discernment as King Solomon asked his God.
Let us take time for prayer as Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel has said:
"Some of our deepest insights, decisions and attitudes
are born in moments of prayer."
Let us pray!*

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support CSD



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by theccsd@csjorange.org