

July 6, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt From Today's First Reading

"I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."

GENESIS 22:12

Reflection

The dramatic account of Abraham following God's instruction to make an offering of his own son seems extreme, or at least daunting. As a child this story was frightening to me. Yet, God came through in the end, and Abraham passed the test. I still struggle with the story, though I find the necessity of great trust an essential aspect of the spiritual life.

I, like Abraham, believe that all comes from God, and all belongs to God. He

trusted God, and experience taught him that God always provides. In the long wait for the birth of Isaac, Abraham and Sarah realized that God is seldom early, but never late.

Abraham had tried to make God's promise of progeny happen by his own designs rather than waiting for God. By asking him to sacrifice Isaac, God was testing Abraham to see if he trusted Him. And he did! Abraham's long-lived faith in God was so great that he was willing to give God his only son, trusting that God could do anything. Might this story be a precursor to God's sending his only Son into the world to redeem us and show us the Father's great love?

Who is this God who gives us everything and asks everything from us? God who is love desires to be intimately engaged in my life. God and I are in this life together. Abraham's story seems to confirm this. God is faithful. God's promises are trustworthy. God desires to be in deep and personal relationship with Abraham, with you and me. God sends people like Abraham, Jesus, and us for a purpose -- revealing God's personal interest in, love of, and engagement with all of creation.

Perhaps these stories reveal that trust-filled surrender seems to be a prevailing theme in a maturing relationship with God. "The submission of the will is really the only uniquely personal thing we have to place on God's altar. The many other things we 'give,' brothers and sisters, are the things God has already given or loaned to us." (Taken from Encyclopedia Britannica)

Being in a loving, life-giving relationship includes mutual trust, personal surrender and letting go of control. All this yielding results in a richer, stronger, and more fruitful life. In the end, mutual trust, fidelity, and giving oneself to the other are essential in the spiritual life of belonging completely to God.



On pilgrimage in the Holy Land
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- What have been the experiences of sacrifice for God or for a loved one in my life?
 - What have I learned and/or received from giving myself away?
 - How has letting go to love, yielding to grace, shaped me for the good?
 - What is God asking me to surrender in the ordinariness of my life?
-

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

[Support Us Here](#)



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 knuernberg@csjorange.org](mailto:knuernberg@csjorange.org)

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

Sent by theccsd@csjorange.org