

July 7, 2023



# *Daily Reflections*

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

## **BLESSED IN EVERY WAY**

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

### **An Excerpt From Today's First Reading**

*"Abraham had now reached a ripe old age, and the LORD had blessed him in every way."*

**GENESIS 24:1**

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### **Reflection**

The week before my Dad died quite suddenly, he casually remarked to my Mother, "We have had a very good life together." His words stuck with us all and are a source of blessing and gratitude for us, their children. The Lord's blessings, in every way, are evident in the overall span of their lives.

Recounted in Genesis, the life experiences of Abraham and Sarah mirror the ups and downs, the challenges and blessings of life lived in fidelity to God. By

faith and action, they journeyed through life, adapting to the circumstances that were theirs. I imagine they awoke each new day to discover God present and available in the ordinariness of everyday life.

They learned to embrace their covenant relationship with God. In faith, they knew God as One, Holy, and dynamic, companioning presence, actively interested in them personally. They in turn related to God as constant companion and Lord of life. They listened and responded to what was theirs to do. Still, at times, they plotted and planned, acted on their own initiative. There were times they needed to make their way back to God. In their overall lives, they depended on the graces that flowed from such great love.

Given his very long life, Abraham gradually realized the benefit and blessing of being faithfully attentive to his relationship with God. Stepping back and reflecting on the years, Abraham could say with confidence that ***“the Lord had blessed [me] in every way.”***

All his life, in wonder and awe, in ordinary evolution of days, and in the troubles of life, God was present, faithful, compassionate, and merciful. I would like to imagine Abraham and Sarah reminiscing in their elder years on the countless blessings that were theirs as a couple, and personally.

It is good for me to be reminded by Abraham to reflect on the blessings in my life that have come through the flow of each day's adventures and challenges. Stepping back in faith and relying on my relationship with God, remembering the blessings that come easily and those that came from my journey in difficult times, provides me with blessed reassurance. Strength for the continuing journey comes from gleaning the graces of God's abiding presence. God is with us in it all. Depend on it!

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Sunset in Iceland  
Photo by Alicia Rodriguez

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### For Pondering

- Ask yourself: How have God and I navigated life?
  - Recall the ways God has blessed you.
    - The easy and wonderful blessings.
    - The hard-earned graces that came through difficult or challenging times.
  - Ask yourself: How have I grown in relationship with God over the years?
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