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God suffers in all those who suffer in this world

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READINGS
Psalm 123

2 Kings 5.1-14

Acts.5.12-16

Mark 1.40-end

Good morning, beloved in Christ! Today, as we gather on this 9th Sunday before Easter, we delve into a profound theme: “God suffers in all those who suffer in this world.” Our reflections will be centred on the ministry among leprosy patients, marking this Sunday as Leprosy Sunday. As we explore the scriptures from Psalm 123, 2 Kings 5:1-14, Acts 5:12-16, and Mark 1:40-end, let us open our hearts to the transformative message of God’s compassion.

Psalm 123 – Lifting our Eyes to the Suffering God

In Psalm 123, we find the psalmist lifting their eyes to God, acknowledging our dependence on the Almighty. It’s a psalm of humility, recognizing our need for divine mercy. As we consider the suffering God, we realize that God is not distant but intimately connected with our pain and struggles.

2 Kings 5:1-14 – Naaman’s Healing and God’s Grace

The story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5 illustrates the unexpected ways in which God chooses to bring healing. Naaman, a mighty commander, is humbled to seek help for his leprosy. Elisha, through God’s guidance, instructs him to dip in the Jordan seven times. Naaman’s healing is not only physical but spiritual, emphasizing God’s grace reaching beyond the expected boundaries.

Acts 5:12-16 – The Shadow of Peter and God’s Healing Power

In Acts 5:12-16, we witness the extraordinary healing power of God through the apostles. People brought the sick into the streets, hoping for even the shadow of Peter to fall upon them. This demonstrates the profound connection between God’s servants and those in need, illustrating how God’s suffering is felt among His people.

Mark 1:40-end – Jesus’ Compassion for the Leper

Turning to Mark 1:40-end, we encounter the touching story of Jesus healing a leper. Instead of keeping a safe distance, Jesus is moved with compassion. He touches the untouchable, demonstrating that God is not repelled by our suffering but draws near to us in our pain.

Theologically, these passages reveal that God’s suffering is not a distant, abstract concept but a lived reality in the midst of our struggles. The ministry among leprosy patients exemplifies God’s willingness to embrace those society often rejects. As we engage in this ministry, we become

channels of God’s love, embodying the truth that God suffers with those who suffer.Beloved, let us be encouraged by the fact that we serve a God who understands our pain intimately. In our ministry among leprosy patients, let us emulate Christ’s compassion, reaching out to those society has marginalized. Our actions become a tangible expression of God’s love for all, regardless of their outward circumstances.

As we conclude, let us remember that our God is a suffering God, intimately acquainted with our sorrows. In our ministry among leprosy patients, we participate in God’s redemptive work, bringing healing and hope to the marginalized. May our eyes be opened to see God’s suffering in those around us, and may we be vessels of His compassion.

Prayer

Gracious and compassionate God, we thank you for the reminder that you suffer with us in our pain. As we engage in the ministry among leprosy patients, may your love flow through us, bringing healing and restoration. Grant us the strength to be instruments of your peace, breaking down barriers and extending compassion to all. In moments of despair, may we cling to the assurance that you suffer with us, offering comfort and hope. In the name of Jesus, our Suffering Saviour, we pray.

Amen.