

STAY FOCUSED ON THE MISSION

Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:31,32

REFLECTION

Jesus' invitation to Levi, the tax collector, to follow after Him resulted in a life that was completely turned around. It may not have been in the most ideal or acceptable settings as we read and understand from this account that Jesus' response was to those who murmured about Him associating with sinners, but God was at work. This was the purpose and intent of God - to save and transform lives - and He continues to do so this day in different circumstances. Nothing can hinder Him or dictate to Him when, where, how or whom He can save or not save. The Lord is sovereign to save.

As we weather through this season of COVID pandemic, most of us are caught up and busy with managing and keeping the spread of the virus at bay; there is a place for such focus and attention. At the same time, some of us may wonder where or how this pandemic fits in to the whole scheme of God's purpose and will. If you have been reflecting on this, then perhaps you may want to consider the following questions. Are we aware of God's purpose and desire for people's salvation even as the number of deaths chalk up during this pandemic? Are we alert to His movement and actions happening within the communities around us? Are we ready to join in with Him to bring others into His kingdom? Are we excited and eager to see one more soul being saved? If your answer is "Yes!", then ask the Lord to open your eyes, heart, hands and mouth to reach out creatively to others with the message of God's love. But, of course, we need to do so wisely, carefully and safely, minding the safety regulations during this COVID pandemic.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You that through the loving sacrifice of Your Son Jesus Christ we are saved from eternal damnation. While we try to stay alive physically during this pandemic, many have entered into eternity either to be with You or without You. Lord, have mercy. We ask that You would quicken our hearts to respond with Your compassion and desire for people to be saved. Use us for Your kingdom purpose that many may find hope in You alone. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for His love demonstrated towards us by sending His Son, Jesus Christ to save us all (John 3:16,17). Pray for every believer to have a deep appreciation of God's grace and understanding of His salvation work that we may continue to spread the message of His love and salvation to others.
- Thank God for the loved ones, families and friends He has placed in our lives. They are there with a purpose. Ask God for opportunities and wisdom to know how to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ. Some of us may not have good relationships with them. Pray that God would work in our hearts to have the love and compassion for them and where possible to be reconciled with them. May they see God's redemptive work even as we seek to reconcile with them.
- Pray to God for many who have yet to know who Jesus Christ really is. Some people have vague ideas and associations of Jesus to Christmas while others use His name frivolously in cussing. Pray for awakened minds to realize who Jesus Christ and understand what He has done for them personally. Pray for open hearts to recognize one's own spiritual poverty and the need to accept God's gift of salvation. Pray for God's prevenient grace to work in their lives that they may come to know Him, submit to Him and be saved.
- Pray for yourself as you reflect on God's unique work of salvation in your own life. Give thanks to Him for leading you to the saving knowledge and relationship with Him through our Lord Jesus Christ. Commit yourself once again to God, allowing Him to use you through your gifts and possessions to reach out to others for His kingdom purposes. Pray for a heart of compassion for the lost. Ask God for divine opportunities and to lead you to people whom He wants you to talk to. Ask God open eyes to see, minds to perceive and hearts that are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading as you encounter people along the way.

"The Lord is not slow to fulfil His promise as some count slowness,

*but is patient toward you,
not wishing that any should perish,
but that all should reach repentance."*

2 Peter 3:9

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
kindly contact the pastoral care team via:***

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