

2021 06 27: Prayer for Peace, Hope & Justice

- ❖ Doctors and nurses overwhelmed as third wave hits Gauteng.
- ❖ Children's lives threatened by unsafe pit toilets.
- ❖ Truth tellers suspended.
- ❖ 78 year old women raped and robbed in their homes.
- ❖ People starve and die.
- ❖ Rife unemployment.
- ❖ Corruption clogging every pore.
- ❖ The planet's pleading for care.

Jesus the barbed wire of pain, violence and suffering is becoming tighter and tighter. We are aware of a growing fear rising within us. Yes, a fear of being overwhelmed, but a greater fear of what happens when we become overwhelmed. That we will develop a numbness to the pain, the violence and the suffering and will listen less carefully, look more vaguely and stop questioning as much...and slowly, but very surely, we will become indifferent to it all as we sink even deeper into the systemic pit latrine around us...where we shall surely die.

And so, Jesus, we turn to learn from you realising that when you lived in the flesh things were very similar. We are curious about what you did with the realities that sought to overwhelm you to a place of indifference. We watch as you took time to withdraw and pray and we follow you there, curious, hopeful. We wonder, as we gaze upon you praying, what could be happening that seemed to bring you back into the fray resolute, compassionate, energized and peaceful? Was it comfort you received? Or reassurance? Or did you touch something that was even more real than what you were experiencing in the world? Did you touch God's will that spoke of a way of being in those experiences and realities that convinced you over and over that these ways of being would win, would triumph over evil, would overcome all that overwhelms? Were you touched by a way of loving, of sharing, of grace that reminded you of all it was meant to be? Did you become more convinced that this was the only path that would bring healing to a very broken world?... We watch as you return from your prayer, your face reflecting the joy of your certainty that touching this greater truth did, indeed, make all the difference...that this deeper-than-happiness joy and heart-wrenching pain can exist together in Your heart... diminishing neither.

We withdraw, sobered but enthralled by what we have witnessed, knowing that in order to survive we must pick up the responsibility of keeping ourselves in touch with the truth of your will, of seeking to pray in such a way that reminds us of its great truth, its great joy, "that soothes and transforms" and for which we can "dare to give our lives" ... so that all may live.

Amen