

WALKING WITH JESUS, EYES WIDE OPEN

Matthew 11:2-5

December 9, 2019

While John the Baptist was in a physical prison, we ourselves are often locked in a spiritual prison due to our sinful weaknesses. John sent his disciples to Jesus wanting to know if Jesus was the one John was waiting for. We too send out our brothers and sisters seeking such answers. We ask ourselves if we can receive God's mercy and grace despite our sins, sickness, and failings.

We are blinded to the world we are destroying. We fail to see the destruction of our planet, our resources, and our climate. We are consumed with power and greed with little to no regard for God's creation. We need to pray that God remove the film from our eyes so we can see our destructive ways and begin working to be good stewards of God's creation.

Our crippling, self-defeating attitudes, such as 'I can't', 'Let someone else', or 'it's not my job' keeps us from being the hands and feet of Jesus. We need to pray for encouragement, for strength and wisdom so we will not be fearful or unwilling to go into our world spreading the good news.

We are witnesses to the scourges of today, such as diseases, cancers, HIV, tumors, and other health related issues, finding cures through medical intervention. These interventions are not solely due to science but also with God, through our prayers. Miracles are a gift from God.

We tune out the cries of the world, from the impoverished, the downtrodden, those suffering under hard task masters, from the marginalized, those without voices, and to those who justice has been denied. We should pray that God remove the wax from our ears so we can hear those cries. Let us be called into action and work toward feeding the hungry, lifting the hopeless, embracing and valuing those different from us, and seek justice for those victimized by society.

We are the dead of this world if we keep Jesus to ourselves. We are dead to this world if we lock out those who are seeking hope and love. We need to pray for God's grace and mercy. We need to pray for God's infusion of joy and glory in our bodies and minds. We need to wake up and be God's tools for God's goodness in this world.

There are many who have not heard the gospel. We need to be disciples and go into the world spreading the good news. We can do this by talking with our neighbors, using social media to spread God's word to our fellow countrymen, and people on the other side of this world.

Let us pray. Father, in this Advent Season work in me that I might be a good steward of Your creation. I ask for encouragement and strength and wisdom. For the healing of those in affliction and for miracles. To hearing the cries of the world and answer through my actions. I pray for Your infusion in me both joy and glory. Give me the strength and wisdom to go out into this world spreading Your good news. Amen

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