



The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

HEALING THROUGH TEARS AND PRAYERS

Isaiah 38:1-8

Late Dr. Mary Varghese of Vellore CMC hospital, who was known as "The Doctor on wheel chair" had her own philosophy of prayer and profession. She said "Surgery is the prayer done by hands and prayer is the surgery done by hearts". What is our concept and approach to prayer and life?

God has not promised us a trouble free journey, but he has promised us a safe landing. The Bible teaches that there's no such prayer as unanswered prayer and God's response to our prayers are in three ways. If our prayer is in accordance with God's will, we'll get an immediate answer "YES" and otherwise it's "NO". The third response is "WAIT patiently"; because God's time has not come yet.

A test can bring out a person's true character. God tested Hezekiah, the King of Judah, to see what he was really like and to show him his own shortcomings and the attitude of his heart. In this passage, Isaiah the prophet went to Hezekiah, who was extremely ill and told him of his impending death.

He immediately turned to God and did three things.

1) He looked back and repented: (vs.2) "turning his face to the wall" means discarding all worldly pleasures and have introspection. The word "he wept bitterly" (vs.3b) shows his contriteness. In Psalms 51:17 ".... a broken and contrite heart O God, you'll not despise". Do we have this type of introspection and contriteness during this lent? When did you weep recently looking at your own sin?

2) He looked within and prayed: (vs.3) "a life of thanksgiving is always expected by our Lord". Here Hezekiah acknowledges God's faithfulness and provision, and thanks Him for guiding him to do all those good works for the nation.

3) He looked ahead and saw God's promises: (vs.7) Hezekiah was a godly man; a blessed one like his forefather David. God responded to his prayer, allowing him to live another fifteen years. It is a blessing to visualize all God's promises that are in store for us.

In response to fervent prayer, God may change the course of our lives too. Never hesitate to ask God radical changes if you'll honor Him with those changes.

In times of success, most of us can live good lives. But pressure, trouble or pain will quickly remove our thin veneer of goodness unless our strength comes from God. Those who are consistently in touch with God don't have to worry about what pressure may reveal about them. Remember, the man who walks with God always gets his destination.

Prayer: Merciful Father, thank you for answering our prayers. Lord, help us to wait persistently upon you and discern your will for us. Give us strength to live a life acceptable in your sight.
Amen.

Rev. Abraham Thomas, Detroit

*"I have heard your prayer and seen your tears;
I'll add fifteen years to your life
and I'll deliver you..."
Isaiah 38:5*