



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

Lenten Meditations

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Acts 3:1-10

*"I was Hungry
And you formed a humanitarian group to discuss my hunger
I was naked
And you wept off Quietly to your chapel and prayed for me
I was sick
You knelt and thanked God for your health
Yet still when you are so holy, saintly and peaceful
I am still hungry, lowly and wretched"*

*"Then Peter said, "Silver and Gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."
-Acts 3:6*

This Poem very empathetically describes the agony, the despair of a person who is hungry, naked and sick. On the one hand he is forced to live a life of wretchedness, on the other hand, the society around him is so superfluously, sympathetic and full of pseudo care, that they are least bothered about his real problem. Here in this context, this beggar at the beautiful gates of Jerusalem temple is also in the same situation. He is forced to live a life of wretchedness. There is nobody who is ready to recognize his real problem and lead him towards a life giving liberation. At this junction, Peter and John interact with his life, but this interaction is far different from that of the other people, because their interaction changes the whole course of his life.

Mission empowers the powerless by making the temple relevant: Peter and John are not against the Jewish religious system. Still they are confronting the temple structure. The temple was the sign that God is dwelling among the people and through the temple they could experience the liberating presence of God. The temple must also be the means of liberation. The temple structure has become powerless. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk". While saying that, they are in reality proclaiming to the world that the same power, which is lost by temple structure, is with them.

Mission restores the least and lost to fullness of life making the worship relevant: In that period beggar comes under the category of the outcaste or the submerged class and hence they were the very representation of the distorted image of God. So when Peter and John healed this lame person and restores to life in a reality, they are continuing the blessed ministry of Jesus Christ. And In this mission Jesus's Nazareth manifest of Luke 4:18 is their guiding forces, where Jesus compassionately calls for the restoration of the Last, the Least and the Lost towards the fullness of life. To experience the fullness of worship, the temple must be the center of life to all kinds of people especially the weak and the marginalized.

Prayer: Dear God, We beseech you to help us become better individuals by realizing our mission and to make a difference to those around us. Amen

Rev. Baby John, New York