

The Message for Easter 2020

Easter Greetings!

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo.
“So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

(J R R Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring)

Dear all,

We are living in unprecedented times; we have never before seen a global catastrophe such as this in our life time. However, long before I read Tolkien, Frodo’s thoughts crossed my mind, when as a teenager I lived in Sri Lanka during the civil war.

I remember the number of times we had to leave our home and move into the school nearby for days, and endure constant bombing and shelling. Not enough food or medical facilities, no electricity, no phones or internet, struggling to bury the dead every day and more stuff that I cannot say here. I still think of the times when the adults had to manage with drinking plain tea, making sure we children had one meal of boiled rice for days. When we stepped out after the curfew was lifted either shops were damaged by bombing or what was left were looted.

The first time we evacuated, I still remember the first shell that was fired, landed on the roof of the building we were in just as we were saying the Lord’s Prayer. Everyone screamed, and my father, who was also an ordained minister, told us to be calm. Sporadic shelling continued, and those who were sheltering in the surrounding buildings started screaming and running everywhere. My father went out in the midst of the shelling, and managed to get everyone back in the buildings. By the grace of God not a single person was injured that night.

The only thing that kept us sane and safe through those horrible days were our ever faltering faith in God and a wicked sense of humour. We kept singing hymns, reciting Psalms, reading the Scriptures and praying. One could play card games for only so long. This time we are facing an enemy that we cannot see. However, God can, and he is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Couple of Psalms come to mind, they are Psalm 23 and 91. The Psalmist says in 23:4 “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (ESV). In Psalm 91:9&10 it says, “Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent (ESV). Keep reading these Psalms and claim these promises for yourself and look to the Saviour Christ Jesus who gave his all for us. God says in Isaiah 45:22 “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other” (ESV). It is my hope and prayer that in the midst of all this, you will encounter the Risen Christ this Easter, who will give you his peace and protection.

If you are anxious or worried and want to chat please call me.
I do not have all the answers, but willing to listen.

Take care and stay safe! God bless you.

Sincerely

Your friend and pastor

Sudharshan