

"WILL THE FAST I CHOOSE BE LIKE THIS: A DAY FOR A PERSON TO DENY HIMSELF, TO BOW HIS HEAD LIKE A REED, AND TO SPREAD OUT SACKCLOTH AND ASHES? WILL YOU CALL THIS A FAST AND A DAY ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD? ISN'T THIS THE FAST I CHOOSE: TO BREAK THE CHAINS OF WICKEDNESS, TO UNTIE THE ROPES OF THE YOKE, TO SET THE OPPRESSED FREE, AND TO TEAR OFF EVERY YOKE? IS IT NOT TO SHARE YOUR BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY, TO BRING THE POOR AND HOMELESS INTO YOUR HOUSE, TO CLOTHE THE NAKED WHEN YOU SEE HIM, AND NOT TO IGNORE YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD?" ISAIAH 58:5-7

DAY 15

As Yemenis continue to fast throughout Ramadan despite their already horrific living conditions and the impending doom of famine invading the land, our brothers and sisters in Yemen struggle with cultural and spiritual pressure to conform to the legalism of Islam, both to avoid persecution and also because of the fleshly appeal of religious works. Pray that they would remember that the one true God is a God of grace who lavishes his Spirit and blessings, and not a God of works who demands and exacts payment or self-sacrifice for favors. Pray that they would know that their only "work" is to believe and to receive and then to allow God's life to flow through them. Pray that they would remember today that God is calling them to a life of love and mercy and justice. For those who have been caught up in works of flesh, pray that they would repent and return to their first love.


Pray for the nation of Yemen, the millions of lost souls who are punishing themselves and others daily through their fasts, that they would realize that God is not pleased with acts of the flesh but only with a humble and contrite heart who walks by faith in his Son. Pray that they would repent of their religious works, confess their sin and seek him truly by faith. We know that God is faithful and will reveal himself to those who are seeking.

And let us pray especially for those who have already heard the gospel but are continuing to persist in their unbelief. Pray that they would repent of their self-righteousness and deception and would receive by the faith the word as it was shared with them.

LORD God, it is humbling again to realize that our good works do nothing to earn favor or honor with you. We know that you look to the heart and are not like man who sees only the outward appearance. You are truly holy and righteous and will not accept the ritual offerings of a wicked and proud heart. We are grateful that you have revealed what it is that you desire from us - love and mercy and justice. Thank you for revealing your truth and your heart to us, for we are all bound under deception and lies and the desires of the flesh to walk in the pride of our own deeds. But you have shined light into our darkness and so we pray in a spirit of thanksgiving.

Thank you for revealing yourself and your truth to the many Yemenis who call on your name. Today, Father, we know they are struggling with the powerful call of the world around them and the flesh within them that would say to them "Here is righteousness. Here is your good work. Here is security and safety." We pray that they would hear your voice above all these others and walk in truth. We pray that they would walk in love and justice and mercy. For those who have a little extra, for those who have a home to share, for those who have influence or ability, we pray that they would share the blessings you have given them today and be a blessing of your love to those around them. We pray that as they do these things, you would affirm their spirits and remind them the righteousness they possess is the perfect righteousness of grace and they need not do any more to earn or add to what they have received. Comfort their spirits today as they struggle amidst the violence of this spiritual battlefield.

We pray for the people of Yemen that they would see the emptiness of their fasts. We ask that those who have heard the words of truth in the past would remember and repent of their wickedness and pride. Yes, Lord! We know that many have had the opportunity to seek you, to find you and receive your salvation, so convict these Lord. We pray that the lives of the believers in Yemen would demonstrate the difference between self-righteousness and true righteousness, and you would use them to draw many to yourself. We long to see your kingdom come in Yemen! Amen.



"IN THE FIRST YEAR OF KING CYRUS OF PERSIA, IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE WORD OF THE LORD SPOKEN THROUGH JEREMIAH, THE LORD ROUSED THE SPIRIT OF KING CYRUS TO ISSUE A PROCLAMATION THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE KINGDOM AND TO PUT IT IN WRITING: THIS IS WHAT KING CYRUS OF PERSIA SAYS: 'THE LORD, THE GOD OF THE HEAVENS, HAS GIVEN ME ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH AND HAS APPOINTED ME TO BUILD HIM A HOUSE AT JERUSALEM IN JUDAH. ANY OF HIS PEOPLE AMONG YOU, MAY HIS GOD BE WITH HIM, AND MAY HE GO TO JERUSALEM IN JUDAH AND BUILD THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, THE GOD WHO IS IN JERUSALEM. LET EVERY SURVIVOR, WHEREVER HE RESIDES, BE ASSISTED BY THE MEN OF THAT REGION WITH SILVER, GOLD, GOODS, AND LIVESTOCK, ALONG WITH A FREEWILL OFFERING FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD IN JERUSALEM.'" EZRA 1:1-4

DAY 16

Pray today for wisdom and success for the humanitarian workers and organizations working in Yemen. Most recent reports indicate that over 100 NGOs (non-government organizations) are operating in Yemen, some local and some international. In the midst of the current global crisis, many organizations struggle for funding and struggle to recruit the necessary workforce to meet the overwhelming needs of the Yemeni people – over 80% of whom require humanitarian assistance for basic needs.

Pray for wisdom for the leaders of these organizations and the countries who primarily support the NGOs.

Pray for resolutions to issues regarding access and distribution of the resources and available aid. Pray for open doors and clear pathways to distribute food and aid to those in the furthest reaches and most desperate parts of Yemen. Pray for political leaders to compromise and even capitulate when necessary to the requirements of international aid organizations. Pray for integrity for the aid organizations so that they might not justify any suspicions or accusations raised by any faction within Yemen's War.

Father, you provide us our daily bread and have taught us to ask for it. So we ask for the daily bread for the Yemeni people. We ask that you would continue to provide the aid, the bread, the resources, the food necessary through these humanitarian organizations. We ask that you would open the doors that need to be opened. Open the roads that need to be opened. Protect the bridges that need to be protected. Maintain the trucks and transport vehicles and cranes and other machinery that are all a necessary part of distributing aid.

But more importantly than these things even, we ask that you would break the hearts of these leaders for the devastation of their people. Change their hearts, O God, that they would be willing to work together in order to see their people saved. We pray that you would bring to justice those who are stealing and bring to compassion those who are abusing the system for personal gain.

Please give supernatural wisdom to the leaders of these humanitarian organizations who have such difficult decisions and burdens weighing on them every day. Lead them by your Spirit, Lord, even though most, if not all, do not even know you. Lead them as you led Cyrus and roused his heart to serve and bless the people. We pray this for all the leaders, Father. Rouse their hearts according to your righteousness and compassion. Lead them into works that honor and glorify your name and demonstrate your glory and compassion among the nations. Amen.

"MY CHILDREN, I AM AGAIN SUFFERING LABOR PAINS
FOR YOU UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU."
GALATIANS 4:19

DAY 17

Pray today that God would raise up spiritual fathers for the Yemeni church. Pray that men and women who are in positions of spiritual leadership and influence would recognize that their primary calling in Christ is to suffer and labor by the Spirit in the flesh so that Christ might be formed in the lives of the those God has entrusted to them. The church in Yemen needs more spiritual fathers (both men and women) who will labor as Paul did for the Galatian church. Let us pray for God to raise up and send more to our brothers and sisters.

Remember also that spiritual fatherhood is exhausting. It places oneself in the midst of a violent spiritual battle and yet perseveres until the end. Pray today for those who are spiritual fathers, that God would strengthen them and encourage them. Pray blessing over these men and women. Pray for the fullness of the Spirit to carry them as Jesus was carried throughout his time of fasting and temptation in the wilderness. Pray for faithfulness and protection against pride and sin, which are a greater threat to their labors in the faith than persecution might ever be. Pray that they each might see Christ in his glory and be strengthened by the knowledge that he is working in and through them.

Gracious Father, we rejoice that you have placed men and women in positions of spiritual influence and leadership among the brothers and sisters in Yemen. We rejoice that you have not left them orphans but that you have given to them the gift of spiritual fathers. We ask that you would raise up more - more men and women who would labor tirelessly, painfully, and with great expectation and hope in the Spirit, so that the Yemeni church, your bride, might be transformed more completely into the glorious image of Christ here on earth.

We pray also for those who are even now laboring in prayer, laboring in ministry, in teaching, in reproof, in exhortation, in love, in patience, in confrontation. Lord, we pray for these that you would strengthen them. Encourage them by your Spirit. Encourage them by revealing to them the fruit of their labors and allowing them the joy of knowing that they have not run and are not running and striving in vain.

Protect these men and women from their own fleshly desires that would lead them into sin, from the temptation of the enemy and the world and even the church around them that would lead them away from your grace and your calling. Protect them from discouragement and depression as they see the overwhelming task before them and feel helpless to accomplish what is in their hearts to accomplish. Protect them from the sin of self-sufficiency. Keep them broken and on their faces before your throne so that they might labor and minister out of your great sufficiency and the power of your Spirit. Use these men and women to do greater works than what has been seen before in Yemen. Use them so that your glory would be manifested in the church both now and forever. Amen.

"BUT HE GIVES GREATER GRACE. THEREFORE HE SAYS: 'GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.'" JAMES 4:6

"WHENEVER YOU FAST, DON'T BE GLOOMY LIKE THE HYPOCRITES. FOR THEY MAKE THEIR FACES UNATTRACTIVE SO THAT THEIR FASTING IS OBVIOUS TO PEOPLE. TRULY I TELL YOU, THEY HAVE THEIR REWARD." MATTHEW 6:16

"THE SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO GIVES LIFE. THE FLESH DOESN'T HELP AT ALL. THE WORDS THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ARE SPIRIT AND ARE LIFE." JOHN 6:63

DAY 18

Pray today against the detestable sin of pride.


By God's grace, the country of Yemen is a place where the temptations of the world and the flesh have been stripped away and people live in a state of humbleness and poverty, which allows hearts to recognize both the desperate need for a Savior more readily and the total inability for the individual to save oneself. However, during this time of Ramadan, the temptation towards spiritual pride is powerful. Yemenis everywhere are reminded and considering the possibility that they might earn or merit grace from God through their suffering, that they might deserve reward because of fasting and good works, or that they might have some ability to affect salvation in their own lives through efforts of the flesh.

Pray against this pride. Pray that they would instead feel the ineffectiveness of their own effort and strivings. Pray that they would realize that all their righteous deeds are as filthy rags. Pray that they would be humbled as they see that fasting in the flesh has no power in the spirit. Pray that in humility they would recognize the humility of the Savior, our Servant King, who alone has accomplished salvation. Pray that they would humbly admit their need for something so much more than good works, something so much more effective than deeds of the flesh, something powerful enough to effect change in the spiritual realm and remove the stench and filth of the sin in their hearts.

Oh Jesus, our Savior and King, we pray for the people of Yemen that you would protect them from the powerful pull of the flesh towards pride. Even in the midst of their dire circumstances, we know that the enemy is deceitful and capable of leading people into a state of spiritual pride wherein they think that they have some power or ability to accomplish salvation on their own behalf. We know the enemy is at work powerfully during this month and will take full advantage of the people who are living in his darkness. Protect the Yemeni people from the Satanic sin of pride! Humble them, Lord. Keep them humble. For we know that only in a state of humility will one ever be able to receive by faith the salvation offered in Jesus. So we pray for the humility of the Yemeni people.

Lord, we do not know if perhaps you have continued to allow this war in Yemen so that the people might be humbled even further so that Your Spirit might blow through and bring eternal life to many. May it be, Lord! We pray that it would be so.

Holy Spirit, rush like a fire through the country of Yemen and the hearts of the people there. Touch those whose hearts are truly humble and contrite during this month of spiritual focus. Reveal yourself to them so that they might have the opportunity to come to you. Even for the proud, those who are unwilling to consider their need for a righteous Savior, we pray, Lord Jesus, that you would appear to them and rebuke them as you did Saul on the road to Damascus. You are the same yesterday, today and forever, so we ask these things in faith for your glory among the nations. Amen.



"ABRAM PASSED THROUGH THE LAND TO THE SITE OF SHECHEM, AT THE OAK OF MOREH. (AT THAT TIME THE CANAANITES WERE IN THE LAND.) THE LORD APPEARED TO ABRAM AND SAID, 'TO YOUR OFFSPRING I WILL GIVE THIS LAND.' SO HE BUILT AN ALTAR THERE TO THE LORD WHO HAD APPEARED TO HIM. FROM THERE HE MOVED ON TO THE HILL COUNTRY EAST OF BETHEL AND PITCHED HIS TENT, WITH BETHEL ON THE WEST AND AI ON THE EAST. HE BUILT AN ALTAR TO THE LORD THERE, AND HE CALLED ON THE NAME OF THE LORD. THEN ABRAM JOURNEY BY STAGES TO THE NEGEV. THERE WAS A FAMINE IN THE LAND, SO ABRAM WENT DOWN TO EGYPT TO STAY THERE FOR A WHILE BECAUSE THE FAMINE IN THE LAND WAS SEVERE." GENESIS 12:6-10

DAY 19

We have received multiple requests recently that we take some time to focus our spiritual battle in prayer towards the Yemeni diaspora, those scattered throughout the world and now making their home in countries and among people who are not their own. In some cases, those who are ministering among the Yemeni diaspora are single women who have requested that we pray specifically for God to raise up men to join the work that God is doing. So let us pray today and join in the work!

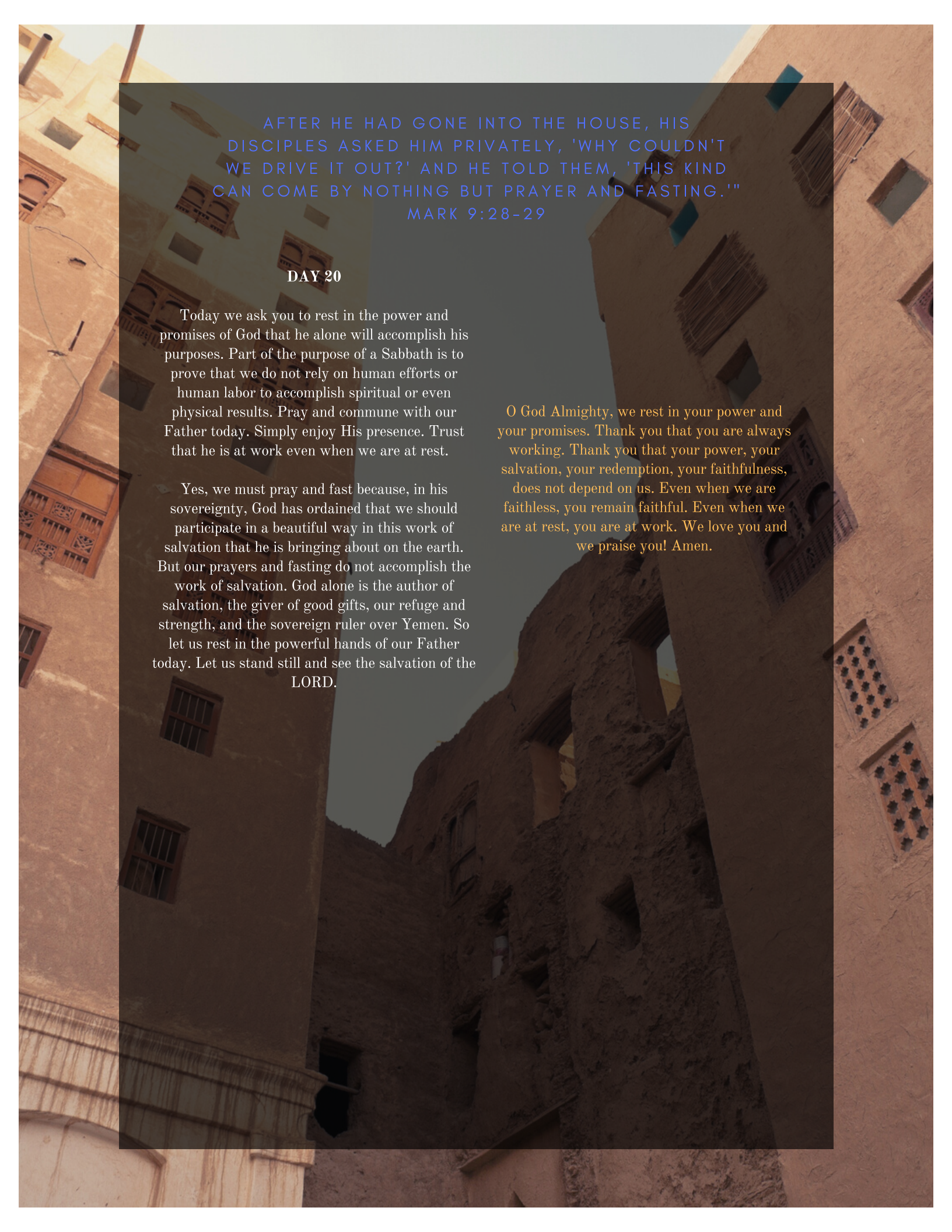
Pray for the Yemenis who are living as residents in countries of freedom but also countries of bondage and oppression. Pray that God would use their status as a traveler, a refugee or a temporary migrant, as the occasion to appear to them. Pray that God would show himself so that they would know that he alone is God and that he is God in every country, every place, and that they cannot escape his presence. Pray that as he reveals himself, Yemeni people would call on the name of the LORD.

Pray for the followers of Christ who are seeking to build community with these Yemenis. The Yemeni community in the diaspora is not one that is easily engaged. Pray against the many barriers that exist between the people of God and the Yemeni communities - barriers such as fear, mistrust, language, and culture. Pray that God's people would be faithful and loving and full of Christ-like humility and service. Pray that Spirit-filled men would join the work where men are needed. Pray that God would send Spirit-filled women to the places where women are needed. Pray for wisdom and discernment and holiness. Pray for Christ to be exalted as holy and true!

LORD God Almighty, we know that as you move peoples throughout the earth, you do so with a purpose. We know that you are always working and we see and hear that you are working through your people and by the power of your Spirit among the Yemeni diaspora who are scattered throughout dozens of countries in the world. Oh Father, we pray that you would use their dispersion, their travels, their state as migrants and foreigners, as an opportunity to open their eyes to the truth of who you are. We pray that you would reveal yourself to them in the places where they are. We pray that as you have taken away the comfort and familiarity of the culture and people they love, that you would replace one hundred fold with new families, a new spiritual language, and a new place of residence that is your kingdom. We pray that they would see that your people are also foreigners and exiles here on earth, and that they would find shared community and identity which would serve as a bridge to the Gospel.

We pray for those who are ministering to and loving the Yemeni people in these foreign lands. We pray first and always for the fullness of your Spirit because we know that flesh does not help at all. We pray that they would live and walk in humility before you and that your streams of living water would fill them to overflowing so that the Yemeni people might drink from your presence and be refreshed and satisfied. We pray that you would send more laborers into these fields. Some need godly men, Lord, who are bold and wise and patient and kind. Send them, Father. Some need godly, gentle women who will walk patiently and graciously through the struggles and trials these refugee women are enduring. Send them, Lord of the harvest! Protect those who are already working and laboring.

We ask that you would strengthen them to continue in faithfulness and the power of your Spirit. We ask that you would work signs and wonders through their faith. Jesus, be glorified in and through them! Amen.



AFTER HE HAD GONE INTO THE HOUSE, HIS
DISCIPLES ASKED HIM PRIVATELY, 'WHY COULDN'T
WE DRIVE IT OUT?' AND HE TOLD THEM, 'THIS KIND
CAN COME BY NOTHING BUT PRAYER AND FASTING.'
MARK 9:28-29

DAY 20

Today we ask you to rest in the power and promises of God that he alone will accomplish his purposes. Part of the purpose of a Sabbath is to prove that we do not rely on human efforts or human labor to accomplish spiritual or even physical results. Pray and commune with our Father today. Simply enjoy His presence. Trust that he is at work even when we are at rest.

Yes, we must pray and fast because, in his sovereignty, God has ordained that we should participate in a beautiful way in this work of salvation that he is bringing about on the earth. But our prayers and fasting do not accomplish the work of salvation. God alone is the author of salvation, the giver of good gifts, our refuge and strength, and the sovereign ruler over Yemen. So let us rest in the powerful hands of our Father today. Let us stand still and see the salvation of the LORD.

O God Almighty, we rest in your power and your promises. Thank you that you are always working. Thank you that your power, your salvation, your redemption, your faithfulness, does not depend on us. Even when we are faithless, you remain faithful. Even when we are at rest, you are at work. We love you and we praise you! Amen.

"IN THE SAME WAY THE SPIRIT ALSO HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS, BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO PRAY FOR AS WE SHOULD, BUT THE SPIRIT HIMSELF INTERCEDES FOR US WITH UNSPOKEN GROANINGS. AND HE WHO SEARCHES OUR HEARTS KNOWS THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT, BECAUSE HE INTERCEDES FOR THE SAINTS ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD. WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE." ROMANS 8:26-28

DAY 21

The violence and battles rage on in Yemen. People are dying daily. Grown men who are political leaders and authorities on a global scale argue and accuse and blame like schoolchildren. Schoolchildren who should be growing and laughing and learning are instead diseased and homeless and orphaned, too tired, malnourished and traumatized to even cry.

What do we pray? Some days we don't know what to pray. So we ask the Spirit to intercede for us. We ask the Spirit of God who dwells within us to cry out to the Father the deep cryings of our hearts. We ask our gracious God to hear and respond to the cries of these people who cannot even cry for themselves.

He is gracious. He is faithful. So let us pray today from the depths of our souls for God to work according to his own faithfulness and according to prayers that we cannot even ask.

Father in heaven, hear our hearts as we cry out to you today on behalf of Yemen. We come to you in humility and do not even know what to pray. We long to see salvation. We long to see your kingdom come. We long for life to replace death, for peace to replace war, for love to replace hatred. We long to see Jesus glorified among these people. We long to see hungry bellies satisfied. We long to see the oppressed and the orphaned protected and loved and provided for. We long for all these things that we know are in accordance with your will.

And Lord, we know that you want us to continue praying fervently, seeking, knocking, asking, interceding. But some days we wonder what more can we pray? What more can ask, Lord? Help us remain faithful in doing good for the people of Yemen by praying for them. Help us not grow weary in doing good when it seems so hopeless.

We pray these things because we trust in your faithful love and mercies that are new each morning - not just for us but also for the people of Yemen. Amen.