

along that road. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him and went over to him. He treated his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put him on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next morning, he gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said, "Please take care of the man. If you spend more than this on him, I will pay you when I return". Then Jesus asked, "Which one of these three people was a real neighbour to the man who was beaten up by robbers?" The teacher answered, "The one who showed pity". Jesus said, "Go and do the same!"

### **COVID-19 threatens religious freedom but kindles faith**

Human beings seek God in prayer when

they are in crisis. Unfortunately, religious places are closed. People are asked to pray at home and be safe. When Israelites were taken into exile as captives, they lost their religious freedom in the foreign land so they cried: (Their temple was in Jerusalem)

*Beside the rivers of Babylon we thought about Jerusalem, and we sat down and cried. We hung our small harps on the willow trees. Our enemies had brought us here as their prisoners, and now they wanted us to sing and entertain them. They insulted us and shouted, "Sing about Zion!" Here in a foreign land, how can we sing about the LORD? Jerusalem, if I forget you, let my right hand go limp. Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I don't think about you above all else.*

### **COVID-19 also teaches us that God watches over us**

*Don't worry about having something to eat, drink, or wear. Isn't life more than food or clothing? Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth more than birds? Can worry make you live longer? Why worry*

*about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow. They don't work hard to make their clothes. But I tell you that not even king Solomon with all his wealth wasn't as well clothed as one of them. God gives such beauty to everything that grows in the fields, even though it is here today and thrown into a fire tomorrow. He will surely do even more for you! Why do you have such little faith? Don't worry and ask yourselves, "Will we have anything to eat? Will we have anything to drink? Will we have any clothes to wear?" Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things. Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these. But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well. Don't worry about tomorrow. It will take care of itself. You have enough to worry about today.*

The above Scripture passages are from:

Leviticus 25:4-7; Matthew 8:1-4;

Luke 10:30-37; Psalms 137; Matthew 6:25-34.

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**DOES COVID-19 TEACH US ANYTHING?**

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# **Does COVID-19 Teach us anything?**

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It is heavily disturbed  
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### Does COVID-19 teach us anything?

In the past few months, the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has spread throughout the whole world affecting almost all countries, societies, and health systems. It has brought disturbances in varying spheres of our social, political, or economical lives. It is also intruding into our spiritual domain. Spirituality is the foundation of human existence and it is that aspect of humanity that refers to the way individuals seek and experience their connectedness to the moment, to self, to other, to nature, and to the Almighty. Despite the uncertainty and discomfort due to COVID-19, here are the remedies from the Bible that will bring comfort to our lives.

**COVID-19 creates a worldwide threat but reminds us as a global community that there needs to be a course of correction to the world order. It has heavily disturbed and the creation needs REST:**

Activities in the name of development and civilization have caused the creation to groan; The expression of pain comes in the form of Cyclones, Tsunamis, Earthquakes, and Unexplainable Diseases. Respecting the land and resting it is often a picture portrayed in the scripture.

### The LORD said to his people:

*After you enter the land that I am giving you, the land must be allowed to rest one year out of every seven. You may raise grain and grapes for six years, but the seventh year you must let your fields and vineyards rest in honour of me, your LORD. This is to be a time of complete rest for your fields and vineyards, so don't harvest anything they produce. However, you and your slaves and your hired workers, as well as any domestic or wild animals, may eat whatever grows on its own.*

### COVID-19 demands Physical distancing but requires unified divine action

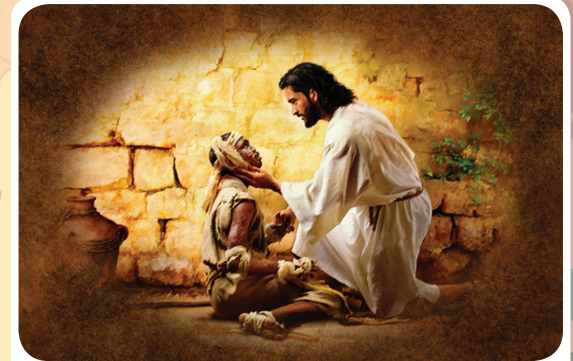
Covid-19 has created restrictions on travel, tours, social gatherings, public functions, and people are urged to follow basic hygiene, not to meet others or to maintain distance when they meet. Though the regulations are meant for good reasons, we found it to be painful. Still, this current situation also unites people in an emotional and spiritual sense by providing divine touch. Here is a divine miracle that Jesus performed during his ministry through extending his divine touch.

*One day a man full of leprosy came to Jesus. He fell down and begged him, "Lord if you will, you can make me clean". Then, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him saying "I will; be clean". Immediately the leprosy left him.*

(Leprosy was considered to be an untouchable/unclean disease among the Jews). When the world demands physical distancing, Jesus in person with love, compassion and solidarity connecting with everyone through his divine touch. People affected with COVID-19 require such healing touch.

### COVID-19 attacks human beings but it stirs up humanity as well

COVID-19 is a threat to human life. People are crying for compassion, kindness, sympathy and care. Today many good-hearted people are coming forward to provide sanitizers, masks, groceries, medical aids, and necessary requirements to the people who are in need. The health workers (including nurses), cleaners or delivery men and women are working hard to help the people and they receive due recognition, respect and honour. On the other hand, there are people trying to



capitalize on the emergency to make huge profits and want to get public recognition. In contrast, the Lord Jesus taught his followers to help who is in need, but not to show up openly.

### A Lawyer asked Jesus, "Who are my neighbors?"

*Jesus replied: A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, robbers attacked him and grabbed everything he had. They beat him up and ran off, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road. But when he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Later a temple helper came to the same place. But when he saw the man who had been beaten up, he also went by on the other side. A man from Samaria (outcast) then came travelling*