

Week 5 Devotion: Sherin Kando Juha

“As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, ‘If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.’ – Luke 19:41–2

When I read this verse I find a moving scene in which Jesus stands before Jerusalem and cries because he knows the city will face destruction, pain and suffering and that it will not know peace. In these words, I see the deep compassion of Jesus and his call for repentance.

During the season of Lent, fasting is not just about giving up food. It is a time to take off the old self and put on the new. Lent is a time to reflect on our lives, open our hearts to peace and follow Jesus, who is the true symbol of love and giving.

As a Palestinian Christian, living in a land full of pain and challenges, I see Lent as a call to return to God with honest hearts. Especially in times of crises, war and suffering, we are invited to hold on to hope and seek both inner and outer peace. Jesus calls us to stop the hate and find the peace he taught us.

In this sacred time of Lent, we are invited to reflect on our personal lives and the world around us. As Palestinians, we live in a reality filled with wars and injustice, but we also live in hope. Even in our pain, God is with us. During Lent, we should ask ourselves: Are we like Jerusalem, missing the peace that God offers? Do we ignore the inner peace that God gives us? Our lives may be full of pain, but God calls us to peace even in the times of conflict.

Fasting is not about the need for food; it is a chance to overcome spiritual and emotional hunger. In these difficult times, we ask God to give us his peace and strength to live with others in love and peace, rejecting hatred. May the theme of our lives always be love and peace.

Week 5 Discussion and Prayer:

Sherin Kando Juha

Questions:

1. How do we experience spiritual hunger? What does that feel like?
2. What are things that “make for peace” in our own communities, and how might our community or society ignore them?
3. What part of Sherin’s devotion do you connect to?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, you who cried over Jerusalem, we come to you today with hearts full of sorrow for all who are suffering in the Holy Land. We know that the peace you offer us is in our hands, but sometimes we don’t see it. In this season of Lent, we ask you to open our eyes to your peace and help us live it in our daily lives despite the pain and suffering. Our dear God, help us to be peacemakers in this world, to live your message in every step we take. In this sacred time of Lent, we ask you to give us the strength for spiritual renewal and to help us live with peace in our hearts and at peace with our brothers and sisters.

Amen.

Sherin Kando Juha

Sherin is a Palestinian Christian from Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem Bible College, and has a deep desire to further understand the Bible and theology.

