



Praying as families

for the prisoners' families and their children.

Day 29

Prisons do not always house people who have committed heinous crimes; many end up there unjustly for political and other reasons. Some supposed to be inside the prison are outside, and some who don't deserve to be there are kept inside. Prison was a familiar place for apostles like Paul and others who, for the sake of the gospel, joyfully endured their suffering.

God calls His Church to fulfill the needs of the oppressed, as stated in Isaiah 58:10. Prisoners long to connect with their spouses, children, and maintain social ties—a distant reality for many. Some are disowned by their loved ones. How can we satisfy their needs? Often, it is through genuine friendship and relationship. This ministry is not exclusive but the responsibility of every Christian. While visiting prisons may be challenging, there are others outside, secluded and lonely, who can be reached out to. How can we, as children of God, be sensitive to their needs?

In various prisons, the Lord encouraged Paul, leading to the writing of some epistles. The New Testament scriptures, many from prison cells, showcase how God uses adversity for His glory. It was in prison that Paul was able to bring some of them to the salvation experience. Peter's miraculous escape from prison is rare; James faced execution in prison. Prison and hardship were understood as the cost of discipleship by early Christians. Paul recollects with such fondness Onesiphorus, who refreshed Paul while in prison and he describes him as a person who is not ashamed of his chains. (2 Tim 1:16). It's often embarrassing to even identify with those in prison. For the family it's often a shame to even say that they are related to a person in prison. But it's in that context of shame and disengagement with such people, that Jesus identifies himself as a prisoner, and he rewards those who visit him during the judgement.

Our prayers, support, and visits are gifts to these families. Only God can grant the grace to overcome such sufferings. Let's pray



for prison cells to become sacred spaces for encountering Jesus, transforming lives for God's Kingdom. Many transformed in prison have initiated prison ministries. Pray for these families and the ministries caring for those in prisons. Pray for God's peace in prison cells and courage for facing life in unjust situations.

LET US PRAY

Lord we pray for those in prison irrespective of what has taken them there. We know your heart goes out to such people and their families. These prisoners are often rejected by their own families causing a deep sense of rejection and pain. Lord, you identify with each one of them and you know how they are feeling. Their families also are traumatized by various authorities and truly it's a nightmare for some of them. Lord, we pray that such families may experience your love through us. Let your Holy Spirit guide each of us to help these families appropriately. We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen

