

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"ISSUES AND INFIRMITIES"

"For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15

We all have issues and infirmities. We admit that some issues and infirmities different individuals face are much more serious and complex than others. Nevertheless, whatever our personal issues and infirmities are, we need, and desire help with them. We need to know that someone cares and understands what we are going through. Hebrews 4:15 informs us that Jesus not only knows how we feel but He also cares. The New International Version (NIV) expresses it this way: *"For we so not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are --- yet He did not sin."* (Hebrews 4:15) We can get comfort, relief, and encouragement when we consider whatever is happening in our present space considering God's Word. At this time when we are practicing social distancing, we may find ourselves more frustrated and aggravated by issues that arise because we are unable to engage in face to face conversation with loved ones and friends who can provide consolation and relate to our issues themselves. We are certainly thankful for the internet and other forms of communication available; however, even when we use social media such as face time, we miss the close and personal contact and interaction with family members and close friends. Talking on the phone is good, but it falls short of seeing people in person whose company and conversation we enjoy and those with whom we can share our innermost thoughts, fears and life's dilemmas. But, as usual, we can find some consolation by meditating on God's word.

We do not have to feel guilt or despair because we are down at times. Whatever issues and weaknesses we are presently experiencing, Jesus understands how we feel, and He can relate. Let's review some of these feelings. Jesus felt alone, lonely, and forsaken at times. (St. Matthew 8:20) Remember the Garden of Gethsemane and the Cross. Jesus said He was without honor in His own country and His own family did not believe Him or accept who He was. (St. John 7:5) He was betrayed by friends. He was lied on, scandalized, and beaten. He ultimately died in an inhumane way and it was unjust because He did nothing wrong and was without sin. (Isaiah 53) Yes indeed, Jesus not only knows how we feel because He suffered greatly, but Jesus cares! What a wonderful and blessed consolation!

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
You were wounded for our transgression and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon You and with Your stripes, we are healed. Thank you that we can cast all our cares on You and that You care for us. *Amen.*

How will you respond to today's message?
