

# Maranatha Mirror Short

## *Can't God See I'm Hurting?*



*"Through the Shadow of Death"*

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How long do I have to languish in this Valley of Despair?

I pray my heart out and nothing comes back but silence!

Has my faith meant nothing?

Have I been wasting my time believing in Jesus?

John the Baptist felt that way.

*Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?"*

John gets no sympathy from Jesus.

*And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me."*

Jesus is focused on the Kingdom of God, not on the "Christian Agenda."

Jesus makes no attempt to change the politics of Israel, or even the politics of the Temple.

His aim is to bring God's Kingdom to those who the movers and shakers ignore.

John needs to understand this, and so do we.

*As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.'*

*Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."*

*Matthew 11:7-11*

The least person in the Kingdom of Heaven has one thing John the Baptist and many modern Christians do not have: faith

Faith that keeps trusting the Master when nothing makes sense.

Faith that actually obeys the Master.

How does one get that kind of faith?

By following Jesus out among the forgotten ones, and treating them the way Jesus does.

Jesus gives the forgotten ones hope, and so should we---even when we're hurting.



*For the Sake of the Lost*  
courtesy of SigneSandelin

***Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.***

***Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.***

***Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.***

Jesus stands by Lazarus the beggar, while the rich man hurries past him on his way to church.

Jesus stands by all the Lazaruses on earth, while the world (even the “Christian world”) ignores them.

If we're hurting, Jesus is standing by us, while the world hurries past.

But what about the Lazarus at our own gate?

When our faith falters, we need to open our hearts to the Lazarus who lies at our gate, and let the kindness of God flow through us to him.

Only then will our faith awaken, and open our eyes to the glory of God.



*"Reflect Glory"*  
courtesy of SigneSandelin

### **Prayer**

Jesus, help us to release our hurt, our despair, our apathy in this confusion, by trusting you and you alone when nothing makes sense. Give us the faith to follow you into the unknown...letting go of our own hurts, opinions, ideas...so that as we faithfully minister your kindness to others in pain...the forgotten ones, the Lazarus's at our gate...we find ourselves standing in the midst of your kingdom, in the midst of your glory and find our own wounds are healed.



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WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN