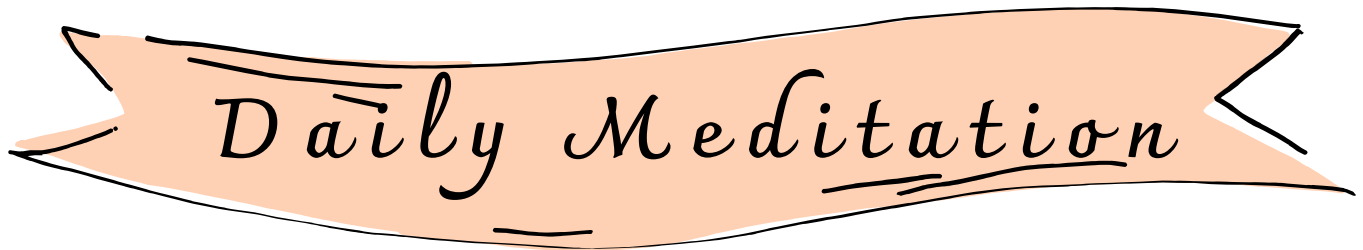


St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church
11308 Yonge St, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1K9

Daily Meditations • July 25, 2020

THE ROCK

THE LORD IS MY ROCK.
- PSALM 18:2



Reflection on (Hebrews 11: 24-25)

“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin”

I had to read these verses twice. Moses grew up as royalty; he was a living status symbol. He had everything he could ever ask





for. Yet every day, he saw his people suffer. His reaction? **Suffer with them.** It's paradoxical and honestly questionable. That is, until we find that "suffer with them" is actually a common and very favourable theme in the Bible.

God's reaction to human suffering?

Suffer with them. Jesus went through the whole human experience, from hard work and toil to problems of family life; from physical abuse to betrayal. He chose to suffer *intentionally*. To show us that there is purpose in



pain. There is beauty in a life dedicated to sharing the afflictions of others, as opposed to a life that stands by at ease watching others in pain. There is purpose in rejecting labels and status symbols in order to stand in love and solidarity with one another. Moses knew that, but Jesus needed us to know that





too. Both could have carried out their lives as royalty, yet chose a life of suffering instead. They knew that struggle experienced with the right people is worth more than “passing pleasure” experienced with the wrong ones.



Why are we urged to share in one another's suffering?

Because we are one body in Christ. “One body” meaning that if I got hurt, I'd immediately drop everything I was doing in order to attend to the body part in pain. And again, it's counterintuitive. Why be part of this “body” and expose ourselves to more pain? Put in the nicest way possible, **alone we are utterly useless.**





Our hands couldn't function unless they were attached to our arms, which in turn are attached to our shoulders etc. Each body part gives the others strength. We give each other the same strength, direction, guidance. Simply put, **the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.** Together we can do infinitely more for God, for each other, for *ourselves*, than if we were to go about life trying to do it on our own.



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