

Living in Hurry to Rest in Peace?



I vividly remember one experience of travelling on one of the highways, in Kerala. *I can honestly say that, in all my years of travelling on road, this was the worst travel imaginable.* I was horrified to see the vehicles, and especially the buses, speeding-by at such killer speed. We might think that traffic cops are present to stop, penalize and inhibit crazy driving. I did see examples of the police issuing challans to these drivers. However, once out of sight of the officers, reckless driving would resume. I feared, isn't this mad rush driving us all ahead towards our own and others' doom!

On the way, to my left, I saw a beautiful cemetery which was indeed a comforting treat to the eyes, as we rushed and passed it. Ah! So much peace out there for us and surely for all those souls resting beneath each decorated tombstone. Suddenly like an answer to my constant question, I saw the engravings on most of the graves, that read, '**REST IN PEACE.**' Is that why we keep rushing all our lives? Is that why these souls fought the battles of life? **Is it simply to rush by crazily, so that we could all eventually sleep in peace?**

*Once, during a flight, the pilot announced to the passengers, "All our engines are okay, the plane is functioning perfectly well. There is only one bad piece of news, otherwise everything is good. **The bad news is that we have lost contact with the earth so we don't know where we are and we don't know where we are going. The good news is that we are going with full speed!**"*

I think most of us share the same situation where *the only good news is that we are going with full speed!* Who cares? Who has time to think about where they are going?

Once in a while, I sit and miserably wonder where those past years have goneby...when climbing the trees or chasing the butterflies or running with friends or composing poetry, were eternal moments...*time was never a constraint back then!*

But today after years of upbringing, formal education and trainings, life has trained us to rush! **Now twenty-four hours of the day are all rush hours!** Our days feel like a continuous race against the clock. From the moment we wake up, we are on the go. Work, meals, commitments - it all feels like we are always rushing from one thing to another.

Buddha must have known the beauty of the trees but I am incapable of sitting underneath the trees - I cannot relax to behold the beauty of the stars - I do not have the leisure to delve into the emotions of my neighbour! I have almost lost the capacity to live the moment here and now – my only enjoyment is planning, always planning and ticking off the to-do lists! I am always in a hurry. I hurry to get up and get to work. I hurry through meals, through prayers and even to grab the hours of sleep! Given this situation, I worry that, may be '**an unfinished to-do list' will be my epitaph!**

Do we need to reach the moon today? Could we wait a little? Is there something there that is going to disappear soon? Do we need to release artificial intelligence before we are even sure what it will do? Could we not wait a moment?

It would be insightful to consider, "*Is God ever in a hurry? Was Jesus ever in a rush?*" Jesus was born in Father's timing. He knew His purpose to '*be about His Father's business*', so He did not need to hurry or worry! In every situation and teaching, Jesus knew His reason for being where He was and the work He had to do. Even after hearing that Lazarus was sick, He did not hurry to heal him. **He was always in the right place at the right time according to the Will of His Father.** Jesus' purpose of salvation wasn't rushed! It was steady. All the way to the cross. Jesus was fully equipped and moved

in the Father's timing. *He did not allow the needs of people, or the crowds or the culture cause Him to rush into a pace not set by God.*

You and me are so hurried. We always want to stay a few steps ahead, sometimes willing to try to push God out of the way if He slows us down. Instead of spending our energy trying to speed up situations and decisions in our life, **what if we focussed on how God might be equipping us to do what He puts in front of us!**

As we run from dawn to dusk, with a never-ending list of tasks to tick off, barely taking time to eat or rest, let's pause and ask, *"Why this hurry? Is this frenzied pace really taking us towards our goals? What have we really achieved other than exhaustion, dissatisfaction, aggression and depression?"* While it's important to be productive, it's equally important to understand what we are rushing towards. **It's not about how fast we're going, but where we're headed.**

Let's develop a simple habit of whispering this phrase to ourselves, ***"Jesus was never in a hurry"***. God desires for us to pay attention to Him and His creation in our life each day. *When we race through life doing everything as fast as we can, we might miss some pretty awesome things along the way.* Every challenge, every growth opportunity, every surprise that comes our way is a call for us to look for God.

Journey may be slow, but it doesn't mean we are not progressing ahead. Let's allow life to slow cook and we'll have a tastier banquet of life filled with some mouth watering nuggets of wisdom. **Let the Master Chef do His job with us!**

As we celebrate *'International Labour Day'* on May 1, let's remember Human labor has dignity because it is an act of obedience to the will of God and is a participation in the work of God. **And as we honor Saint Joseph the Worker on that day**, let's ponder our own call to engage in the dignity of work by putting our work into proper perspective...working hard to fulfill our God-given vocation in life, avoiding excesses and extremes. We are made for love, for family, for faith, for charity, and for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. If our goals in life are anything other than these, then let's go to Saint Joseph the Worker and choose him as our model.

"Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there someday" (A.A.Milne)

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