

CAMINO COMPANIONS

SESSION 4

20 January 2025

SUFFERING & HOPE



CAMINO COMPANIONS PRAYER

God of our pilgrimage, you sustain us along our path, wherever it may lead and however long the road. Inspired by St James, and all who have gone before us and will come after us, help us to follow you as our Creator and the source of life itself. Unite us as we seek justice, peace, and truth. In your world and in your church, guide us in our travels together so that we may be transformed and shaped by your divine love, today and forever. Amen.





A passage from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 8

40 Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, ⁴²for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying.

As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. ⁴³Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, ^{*} no one could cure her. ⁴⁴She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her haemorrhage stopped.





⁴⁵Then Jesus asked, 'Who touched me?' When all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.' ⁴⁶But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.' ⁴⁷When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'



49 While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer.'⁵⁰ When Jesus heard this, he replied, 'Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved.'⁵¹ When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother.



⁵²They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, 'Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.' ⁵³And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴But he took her by the hand and called out, 'Child, get up!' ⁵⁵Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

How does this story and its characters connect with the themes of suffering and hope?



Is there anything about this passage from Luke that surprises you?

How and why might this story be important for:

- ***You***
- ***St James's***
- ***the world***



"I have been in Sorrow's kitchen and licked out all the pots." —**Zora Neale Hurston**

"It was very important for me not to pretend to have surmounted the pain and terror of that time of my life, very important not to pretend that it left no mark on me. It marked me forever. In some measure I encountered the abyss of my own soul, the labyrinth of my destiny: these could never be escaped..." —**James Baldwin**



This is a 19th-century German sculpture. It's a copy of a 15th-century work of art - it mattered and was important enough for someone to copy it and use it in prayer and devotion. It's a Crucifixion with some unusual details. There are two small angels - signs of hope and prayer - towards the bottom of the cross. Mary the Mother of God and St John are on either side. The cross itself has little branches - as though it has been pruned, as though life might spring from it again in future. It is a representation of the Cross as the 'Tree of Life', and this is part of a long history and theological tradition.

The most surprising part is on the back of the sculpture: a little leaf, growing quietly, and, when you look closely, a whole vine, full of grapes. This symbolises the Eucharist. They can't be seen easily from the front, but they are there, right behind Jesus' suffering body. And, at the bottom of the sculpture there are flowing tree roots. Even in the chaos of Jesus' violent death, there is hope and life to come.



A breath prayer by
Cole Arthur Riley:

***INHALE: I won't rush my
sorrow.***

***EXHALE: Grief is an
honouring.***



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