

WEEK 1

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mathew 11:29, NIV)

Those who follow the footsteps of Jesus are not the people standing on the sidelines. People who are gentle and humble in heart will take action concerning suffering; they will accept challenge without a desire for revenge, even in the face of injustice, as they focus on God. Who can find gladness in suffering? Only those who follow the will of God in victory. May our Lord help Chinese missionaries who are gentle and humble in heart to win the impossible battles outside China.

Below is the testimony of a Chinese aid worker who went to serve with a gentle and humble heart in Pakistan after massive flooding:

"We went to different villages in Southern Pakistan to distribute food. We also helped restore or build new homes for two ethnic groups of Hindus, and also for Christians living among Muslims. When the government distributes food and aid in those areas, they discriminate by only providing to Muslims. We came alongside, volunteering with an international non-governmental organisation (NGO). The victims need a lot of help. I am glad that I can be a symbol of the Church of China (learning from Jesus) to share our love from China to Pakistan."

WEEK 2

"Not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD." (Amos 8:11, NIV)

In the mid 1990s, there was catastrophic famine in North Korea. There has never been as great a famine since, but it's as if hunger never left. North Korea became a land of chronic famine.

Most North Koreans who escape to China do so in winter, as the Yula River freezes. But there are great risks in leaving the country. They go to China because they desperately need food, but the Chinese government refuses to acknowledge these refugees, branding them illegal immigrants. In the northeast of China, there is a large group living as 'fugitive refugees'. Various sources estimate them to be between 100,000 and 200,000. If they are caught by Chinese police, they are deported back. What awaits them is probably labour camp.

Who can truly help these people?

There is a saying in North Korea that if you escape to China, you must find a building with a cross on the roof or doors. People inside will help you.

Pray that the Chinese Church will be able to feed the hungry, and that their actions will witness to the Gospel, addressing the famine of hearing the words of the Lord (Amos 8:11).

WEEK 3

"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again." (Ecclesiastes 11:1, NIV)

Every day the 60-year-old mechanical engineer patrolled the roads, offering drivers free help fixing their flat tires or dead batteries. He was doing this because at the age of 16, when he had been stuck in a blizzard, the person who saved him wouldn't take any payment but had simply said, "Just pass the love along." This word had moved him deeply. His card didn't

have his name or phone number, only a short printed message: “It’s a pleasure to help you. I don’t charge for my service, but if you want to repay the favour, just pass the love along. When you see a stranger in trouble, lend a helping hand.”

We are all sinners saved by grace. And we all have the responsibility to pass along the grace and love of Jesus Christ to all nations—not asking for reward or gain, but simply passing love along.

There are no better people to help the persecuted than those who have been persecuted themselves. We pray China will become a missionary sending force in world evangelisation. Chinese missionaries will serve from our experience of persecution to the Persecuted Church in the Muslim world. Furthermore, China will also become a finance-giving nation for world evangelisation, just as she was a recipient nation for hundreds of years – China will be passing the love along.

WEEK 4

“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” (Romans 15:1, KJV)

With love and patience, we who believe in Jesus should ‘bear with’ and ‘take up’ the burdens of others. Paul emphasises that we must actively work out the responsibility we are charged with. If we really understand this, it includes ‘duty’ and ‘obligation’. It’s not a matter of choice—it is God’s command!

Davis, a Chinese missionary in Central Asia, heard his father had had an unfortunate traffic accident in China. It was like lightning out of the clear blue sky; he was struck down, undone! But when he was at his weakest and neediest, the Church of China and the body of Christ did not abandon him or seek what was best for themselves; rather, they lovingly ‘bore’ and ‘took up’ his burdens, so that today he has been able to return to Central Asia to continue serving there!

May our Heavenly Father remember those who willingly reach out, with selfless sacrifice, to those who are in need!

WEEK 5

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:1-2, KJV)

The sacrifice Paul is talking about is nothing other than our very own bodies. Jesus modeled, and also explained, the meaning of a ‘living sacrifice’, and we are to imitate Him by offering our own bodies.

If we merely love God in our hearts but don’t obey Him in our actions, there is no way to offer a living sacrifice! It is not easy to offer a living sacrifice because it means offering our bodies to die. If anyone does not first recognise that Jesus actually died for *him*, then there is no way to follow Him in making such a sacrifice.

What Jesus offered up was a perfect and glorious Life; the Life He laid down was of the greatest possible value. Today, let us answer the summons of His sacrifice! What do we have to keep that is more valuable than what He gave up?