

April 3, 2023



I, THE LORD, HAVE CALLED YOU

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Reading

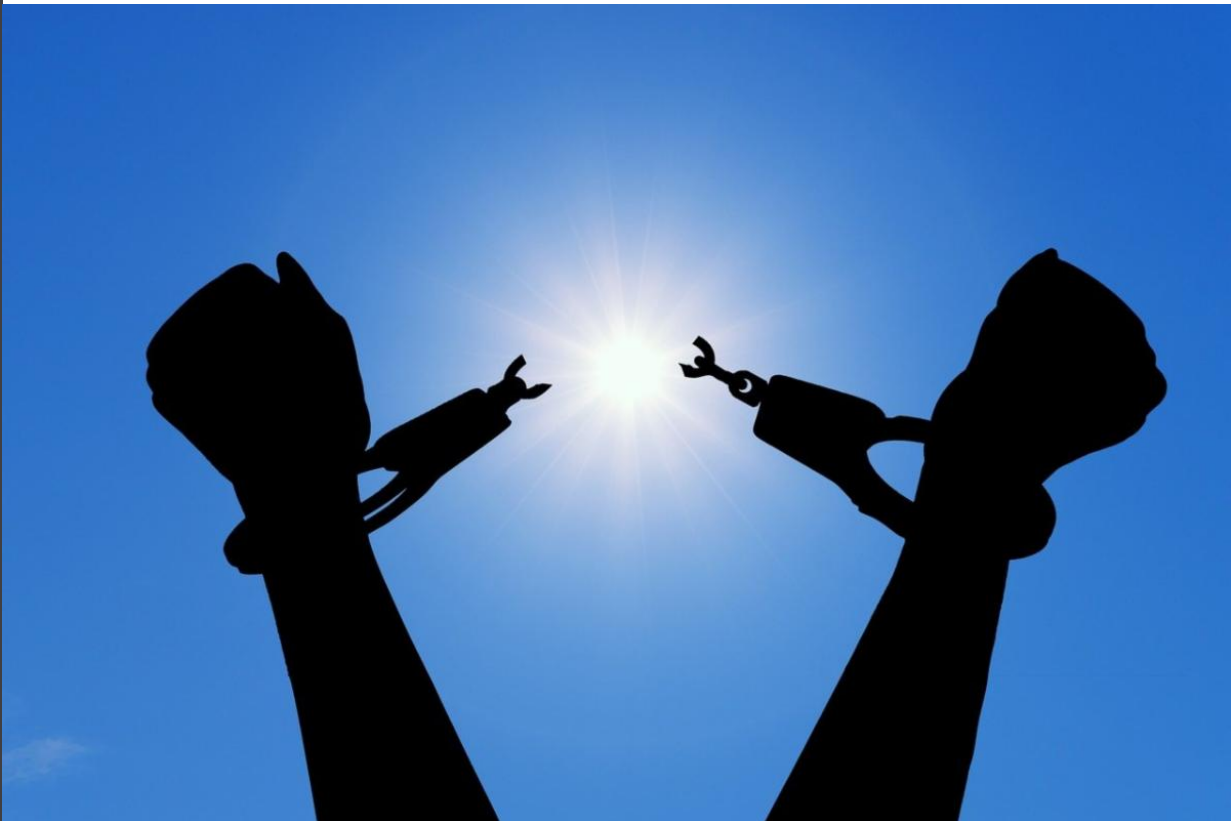
Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my Spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, Until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Reflection

Continuing the description of the “suffering servant,” this section of Isaiah speaks both of the activity of the servant as well as the powerful support of God. The partnership of God and the “suffering servant” has only one objective: to revive all of creation. The activity of this partnership can be read in the verses: *I, the LORD, have called you ... I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.*

- In what ways have you participated in these sacred activities? Who invited you? Who companions you?
- Blindness and confinement don’t always have to be physical. Human hearts and spirits may lack sight and/or be held imprisoned. What examples come to you? When have you witnessed human hearts and/or spirits being opened or being freed?
- In what ways have you benefited by partnering with God in these renewing activities?



Closing Prayer

*My God,
it has taken me time,
but I'm finally learning
to trust you.
When I called, you answered;
when I cried, you sent relief;
when I was in need,
you came through.
You who have called me
are there for me
in every instance.
I need only
look, think, and understand,
and I can always find you;
there you are
always ready to help.
Thank you, God,
for waiting for me.*

REBBE NACHMAN OF BRESLOV
(adapted)

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