A person sitting on the ground

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HE HAD NO PLACE TO LAY HIS HEAD

LIKE ROHINGYA - WITH NO PLACE TO CALL HOME

The woman in this picture had just lost her shelter in a fire. It’s one example of the temporary nature of Rohingya life. Never fully settled. Never having a home they can call their own. Shelters like those the Rohingya have lived in for eight years are not safe—always in danger of being destroyed by fire, flooding and landslides.

Rohingya have suffered many losses, in this way and through persecution as well. And yet, they have shown the world that they are a resilient lot.

Jesus once told someone who wanted to follow him that “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” (Luke 9:57-58)

He was a homeless person at the time he walked the earth with no fixed dwelling place. Some believe that what he said could be interpreted as a metaphor for the rejection he faced from so many. He was persecuted, though he did so much good.

Interesting how Rohingya’s life is in some ways similar to the life Jesus led.

Jesus knows the pain rejection brings. He fully understands the Rohingya’s crisis and has compassion for them because he faced tragic situations himself.

Despite all that, the way Jesus lived became an example for the world to follow.

He treated the sick and the outcasts with kind acceptance. He let us know that we are as worthy as any other and that we have dignity. And in that knowledge about him we find courage and strength. Through our faith in Almighty God, we are able to keep on keeping on.

Jesus reminds us that God will always be with us. He will never leave us. Through his love we find a healing of the spirit.

In this world of great injustices, might it be possible for Rohingya to one day become an example for the world to follow? Can their great faith and the way they have always held onto it, show other nations how important such faith is to the pursuit of goodness, justice, and peace?

Might it be possible for Rohingya to rise from the ashes of suffering and show the world that it is possible to be a resilient people no matter how great the chaos they have lived with? No matter how rampant the evil and injustice?

With a hopeful spirit I suggest that Rohingya could possibly become an example for the world, showing how they have hung onto their faith and traditions, despite all they have gone through. They have been a peace-loving people, not taking up arms against those who were intent on destroying them. They demand the world’s admiration.

marja