A SUFFERING ROHINGYA

IN NEED OF HELP

The following story of the Good Samaritan, part of which is shown below, is a parable Jesus told about a stranger showing mercy to an injured man he had found lying on the road. The Samaritan in the story portrays what Jesus is like. Can you imagine being a Rohingya with all your pain and hardship taken care of by a stranger like the one in this story?

*. . . a Samaritan, as he traveled, came to where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denariiand gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’* (Luke 10:33-35}

What I most appreciate about Jesus as he is shown here is his humility. When caregivers use his attitude as their example something special happens to the care they provide. They don’t consider themselves above the person they care for. Individuals with such love have a genuine desire to be there for the person in need, treating them as equals. Love comes naturally and easily.

I can trust a person who does not consider themselves greater than me. I can trust a person who bends down to my level to hear me whisper my prayers—a person who will patiently bandage my wounds, though their own life might be busy. I can have confidence in the kind of love given by such a person. Such love is authentic, coming from a sincere heart—a heart that is not pre-occupied with self but others.

That’s Jesus’ kind of love. It’s humble.

Many of us need care periodically—someone to help us through the struggles we face. It’s good to be cared for by people who use Jesus as their example. But even such caregiving isn’t always what it should be. Sometimes, in their desire to do God’s work, they help us out of a sense of duty and look down on us because of our neediness.

And when a caregiver no longer sees us being in need they might abandon us, no longer spending time with us in the way they once did. Anyone who has experienced such rejection will understand the great pain it brings. They will understand how worthless it made them feel.

But Jesus, our best friend and caregiver of all, is different. We can rest in Jesus’ care, knowing he will always be there. He tells us that we are all equal under God and that we are as worthy as those who care for us.

One day we’ll be able to give care to our caregivers.