

A prayer for May 14, 2018

We weep, O God, we weep. We weep over the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. We weep over the violence. We weep over more than 40 killed. We weep over children being killed. We weep.

We confess, O God, that quickly our weeping turns to angry words as we move from grief to accusation. "If President Trump had not done..."; "If the protestors had not thrown stones and..."; "If the Israeli soldiers had been more restrained..."; "If someone had done something different..."

Humble us, O God, humble those of us who live in North America. Make us quick to listen and slow to speak; quick to weep with those who are in pain and slow to offer solutions. Make us humble.

Teach us, O God, to live in hope. Hope not in what we can plan or devise; but hope in what is unseen, hope in the promise that peace will come. Hope in a vision of a day when all the children of Abraham will walk the streets of Jerusalem in peace. Teach us to pray against all that would tell us that our prayer is useless, teach us to pray hoping in you alone.

By the power of the Spirit we claim as ours Paul's prayer in Ephesians, knowing that you can and will do "immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine."

These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who wept over Jerusalem, "if only you had known the things that would lead to peace" (Luke 19:42). Amen.

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