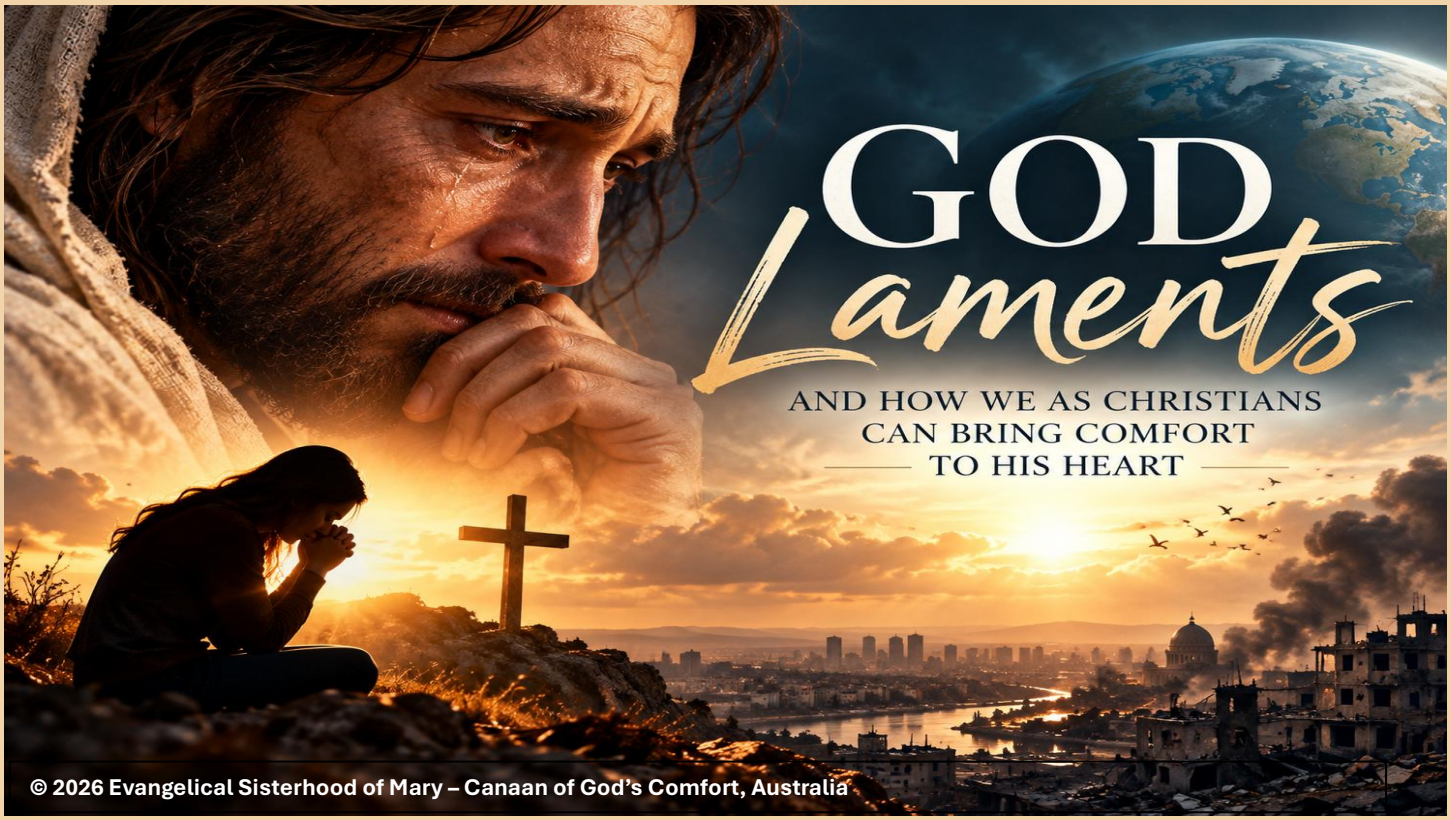


Dear Friends,

"The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth … and his heart was deeply troubled." — Genesis 6:5–6

Have We Ever Asked What Brings God Sorrow?

When was the last time you stopped and asked, What brings sorrow to the heart of God?

We know how to come to God with our troubles. When we are hurting, we ask Him to comfort us; when we are afraid, to protect us; when life becomes difficult, to give us strength and guidance. Our heavenly Father welcomes us. He is the God of all comfort, who draws near to the broken-hearted and gathers His children into His loving arms.

But there is another question we do not always ask: Can our lives bring comfort and joy to the heart of God?

We can become so occupied with what we need from Him that we forget to ask what He desires from us. We seek His blessings and protection, yet how often do we pause to consider what grieves Him?

Scripture reveals a God who is not indifferent to His creation. He sees violence, injustice, hatred and suffering. He sees people crushed by cruelty, families torn apart by conflict and lives damaged by sin. God is not cold or distant. He is holy, loving and deeply concerned about the people He has made.

As we look at our troubled world, we need more than another discussion about how terrible things have become. We need to ask whether our hearts are becoming more like the heart of Jesus. Are we merely watching the world's pain, or allowing God to awaken compassion within us? Are we simply condemning the darkness, or are we willing to become bearers of His light? What if God is not only calling us to pray for a broken world, but inviting us to become people who bring comfort to His grieving heart?

The God Who Laments

Genesis 6:5–6 gives us a sobering glimpse into the heart of God. As human wickedness increased, the Lord saw the corruption of humanity, and Scripture tells us He was grieved in His heart.

God created humanity for fellowship with Himself and gave people the capacity to love, care and reflect His goodness. Yet the human heart turned towards evil. God saw what sin was doing to His creation, and He was grieved.

Sin is never merely a private matter. It wounds relationships, damages families, divides communities and brings suffering to innocent people. Every act of hatred contradicts the love for which we were created.

The prophet Jeremiah expressed profound sorrow over the brokenness of his people. In Jeremiah 9:1, he longed for his eyes to become a fountain of tears so he could weep over the slain among his people. He did not look at suffering with indifference. His heart was moved by what he saw.

And what about us?

Have we become so accustomed to hearing about wars, murders, violent demonstrations and human suffering that we barely feel anything anymore? Do we scroll past images of destruction, shake our heads at the latest tragedy and move on with our lives?

We cannot carry the world's sorrow, but we must not become so accustomed to evil that it no longer touches our hearts. A tender heart has not allowed darkness to extinguish its capacity to love.

When we ask God to show us what grieves Him, He may change not only what we do, but how we see people.

The question is not simply, "How terrible is the world becoming?" It is, "Lord, what is happening to my heart as I live in this world?"

France and a World Crying Out for Peace

The images and reports of violent unrest in France remind us how quickly anger can turn into destruction. When demonstrations escalate into violence, people are injured, property is damaged, communities are frightened and lives are disrupted.

Behind every headline are human beings: frightened families, business owners fearful for their livelihoods, emergency workers facing danger and young people struggling to find their place. Some may feel unheard or carry genuine grievances. We must not assume every demonstrator is violent, but neither can we excuse violence, hatred or the deliberate destruction of another person's livelihood.

God sees those who suffer injustice and those who are afraid. He sees people expressing concerns peacefully, those who choose violence and those wounded by their actions. His compassion does not mean wrongdoing no longer matters. His love and holiness belong together. He desires justice, truth, repentance and peace.

The world's response can quickly become, “Whose side are you on? Who is to blame? Who deserves punishment?” Such questions may have a place when accountability is needed. But Christians must also ask: “Where is the heart of Jesus in this situation? How can truth be upheld, evil confronted and human dignity preserved?”

Jesus challenged injustice and called people to repentance. Yet He also looked on the crowds with compassion because they were distressed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He saw people who needed God.

What if, instead of only expressing outrage over violence in France, we prayed for hardened hearts to soften, victims to receive protection and help, leaders to act wisely, and those who have committed violence to repent?

We may be thousands of kilometres from France, but we are not powerless. We can pray, refuse to spread hatred, teach our children that anger never justifies harm, and help those around us. We may not be able to extinguish fires in another country's streets, but by God's grace we can refuse to add fuel to hatred in our homes, churches and communities.

Jesus Wept — The Tears of God's Heart

One of the shortest verses in the Bible contains one of its most moving revelations: “Jesus wept” (John 11:35).

Jesus stood before the tomb of Lazarus. He knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead. Yet when He saw Mary weeping and those around her mourning, He was deeply moved. He did not remain detached because He knew what He was about to do. He entered into the sorrow of those He loved.

In Luke 19:41–44, Jesus approached Jerusalem and wept over the city.

He longed for its people to recognise the things that make for peace, but they did not understand what they needed most.

Jesus saw beyond the city's activity, ambition and expectation.

He saw spiritual blindness and the consequences it would bring. He wept because He loved Jerusalem.

His tears were not those of helpless despair. They flowed from holy love.

Could we recover something of those tears today? Not tears of hopelessness, but tears born of love — tears that lead us to pray, soften our hearts towards people we might otherwise condemn, and move us to act.

Can we grieve over children growing up surrounded by hatred? Over suffering caused by war, persecution, exploitation and abuse? Over families destroyed by violence and people who have not encountered the love of God?

And can we grieve over what wounds God's heart within the Church itself: our pride, divisions, unwillingness to forgive and tendency to protect our own comfort rather than obey His voice?

We must not reserve our sorrow for the sins of people outside the Church. If we truly want to bring comfort to God's heart, we must allow His light to search our own hearts first.

The question is not simply, “Who is making God grieve?” It is also, “Lord Jesus, is there anything in me that grieves You? Will You teach me to love as You love?”

What Brings Comfort to the Heart of God?

We cannot remove every cause of suffering, nor are we responsible for carrying the burden of the entire world. But Scripture shows us that our repentance, love, faithfulness and obedience matter to God.

First, we bring comfort to God's heart through genuine repentance.

We cannot spend our time condemning the sins of the world while refusing to face the sin in our own lives. It is easy to condemn violence in the streets while allowing anger to rule our hearts; to speak against hatred while holding resentment towards a family member; or to criticise the pride of others while refusing to humble ourselves before God.

Have I spoken words that wounded someone? Have I entertained bitterness? Have I judged people without understanding their circumstances? Have I chosen my own comfort over an opportunity to love?

In Ephesians 4:30, Paul warns believers not to grieve the Holy Spirit. The surrounding passage calls us to put away bitterness, rage, anger, slander and malice, and to become kind, compassionate and forgiving.

We may never participate in a riot, but we can carry hostility into conversations. We may never destroy a building, but our words can damage another person's confidence. The scale differs, but the invitation remains: let God cleanse our hearts. We cannot bring comfort to His heart while protecting the very things that grieve Him.

Repentance is more than feeling sorry. It means turning away from sin, receiving God's forgiveness and allowing Him to change how we live.

Second, we bring comfort to God's heart when we love the people He loves.

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus teaches that what we do for those in need matters deeply to Him. Serving God does not always require an extraordinary calling or a public ministry. Often the most precious acts of love are quietly offered where nobody applauds.

A child can include the classmate everyone ignores. A teenager can refuse to join in online humiliation and defend someone being bullied. A parent can choose patience over anger and apologise when wrong. A young adult can help a struggling neighbour. An older person can offer wisdom and faithful prayer for a younger generation.

A church can become a place where the wounded are welcomed, the hungry are helped, the lonely are noticed and those searching for God encounter His love. Every time we choose compassion over indifference, forgiveness over revenge and generosity over selfishness, we allow the character of Christ to become visible.

Third, we bring comfort to God's heart by standing for truth and peace.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9). Biblical peace is not simply the absence of conflict. It involves truth, justice, reconciliation and a willingness to turn away from evil.

A peacemaker does not pretend wrongdoing has not occurred, call evil good or demand that victims remain silent. A peacemaker seeks a way forward that honours truth, protects the vulnerable and refuses to perpetuate hatred.

We can be peacemakers in our families by refusing to spread gossip, in our churches by addressing disagreements with humility, and in our communities by listening carefully and treating people with dignity. We can pray for justice, for those entrusted with public safety, for peaceful ways to resolve conflict and for those who have chosen violence to turn away from destruction.

Fourth, we bring comfort to God's heart through wholehearted obedience.

God does not merely want our words. He desires our hearts. We can attend church, sing worship songs and read the Bible while resisting the very thing God is asking us to do.

We may pray for peace while refusing to reconcile, or ask God to send workers into His harvest while avoiding the person He has placed before us.

Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commands” (John 14:15).

Perhaps God has been asking you to apologise, forgive someone, offer practical help, stop speaking critically about another person or pray for someone you find difficult to love. Perhaps He is asking you to surrender something that has become more important to you than He is.

Sometimes bringing comfort to God's heart begins with a simple, costly yes: “Lord, I will do what You ask. I will love the person You place before me. I will turn away from what grieves You. I will not harden my heart.”

The Church Must Become a People Who Comfort God's Heart

What would happen if our churches began to ask a different question? Not only, “How can we grow? How can we reach more people?” but also, “Lord, what is on Your heart? What grieves You? What brings You joy?”

Imagine young people learning that following Jesus is not merely about receiving blessings, but loving what He loves and rejecting what destroys people. Imagine families praying for those experiencing war, persecution, poverty and loneliness. Imagine churches responding to tragedy with prayer, practical assistance and wise words, rather than simply sharing disturbing images and expressing outrage.

Imagine Christians who refuse to let political differences determine whom they can love. This does not mean we must agree about every social issue or political decision. It means our allegiance to Jesus must shape how we speak, disagree and treat those who are different from us.

The Church must never become so absorbed in its own activities that it loses sight of the heart of God. Our calling is not simply to comment on the darkness. We are called to shine as lights in the darkness.

The world does not need a Church that has merely learned to describe its problems. It needs a Church that knows the heart of Jesus and is willing to embody His love.

How Can I Respond Practically?

Bringing comfort to God's heart begins with the choices we make each day. We may not be able to change what is happening in France or resolve every crisis in the world, but we can choose how we respond to God and to the people around us.

1. Make room to listen to God. Set aside quiet time to pray and read His Word. Ask, “Lord, what is on Your heart? Is there anything in my life that grieves You?” Be willing to listen and respond.
2. Examine your own heart. Ask God to reveal bitterness, pride, unforgiveness, jealousy or judgement. Confess it honestly and ask Him to help you change.
3. Pray for a hurting world. Pray for France and every place affected by violence; for families living in fear, leaders making difficult decisions and those who have chosen destructive paths. Pray for justice, repentance, reconciliation and peace.
4. Choose words that bring life. Before reacting to disturbing news or a difficult conversation, pause. Refuse to spread hatred, gossip or unverified claims. Speak truth with grace, remembering that disagreement never removes another person's dignity.
5. Reach out to someone who is hurting. Check on a lonely neighbour, encourage someone who is struggling, include a person who feels overlooked or offer practical help to a family in need.
6. Become a peacemaker in your relationships. If you have hurt someone, be willing to apologise. If you are holding a grudge, ask God to help you forgive.

Where reconciliation is possible and safe, take a humble first step towards peace.

7. Pass God's heart on to the next generation. Talk with children and young people about what they see in the news. Help them understand that anger does not justify violence, every person has dignity, and following Jesus means choosing courage, compassion and truth.

Choose one practical response this week and follow through. Ask yourself: "What is one thing I can do that will honour God, help another person or bring peace where there is hurt?" Then take that step.

A Personal Response: *Lord, Let My Heart Be Like Yours*

As we finish this reflection, the question is not only what God should do about the condition of our world, but what He desires to change within us.

Will we allow Him to soften our hearts, expose our hidden resentments and teach us to love as Jesus loves? Perhaps there is someone we need to forgive, a relationship we need to restore, or a step of obedience we have been postponing.

A Prayer to Bring Comfort to God's Heart

Heavenly Father,

Forgive me for the times I have been so concerned with my own needs that I have forgotten what grieves Your heart. Forgive me for indifference towards the suffering of others, for judging without compassion, and for allowing pride, bitterness or selfishness to shape my responses.

Search my heart, Lord. Show me anything that does not reflect Your character.

Give me the humility to repent, the courage to make things right and the willingness to obey You, even when it costs me something.

Lord Jesus, teach me to see this broken world through Your eyes. Give me compassion for those who suffer, courage to stand against injustice and wisdom to pursue peace without compromising truth.

I pray for France and every nation experiencing violence, conflict and division. Comfort those who are grieving, protect those in danger, give wisdom to those in positions of responsibility, and lead those who have chosen violence towards repentance.

Father, begin Your work in me. Help me recognise the opportunities You give me each day to forgive, encourage, serve and show Your love. May my words bring healing, my actions reflect Your goodness, and my life honour You.

I cannot change the whole world, Lord, but I can surrender my life to You. Give me a heart that remains sensitive to Your voice and a spirit willing to respond when You call.

May what grieves Your heart begin to grieve mine, and may what brings You joy become my deepest desire.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

A Final Thought

The world is full of people asking God to comfort their hearts. May we also become people who ask Him to teach us how to bring comfort to His.

It begins with a heart surrendered to Him and a willingness to live out His love, truth and peace wherever He places us.

May our lives bring comfort to the heart of God.

My Jesus' heart must be consoled
Today in all His grief untold.
Awake, my soul, begin to sing –
What comfort has your love to bring?

I'll comfort Him, with Him abide,
In suff'ring always at His side,
No single hour forsaking Him.
Perhaps this will then comfort Him.

I'll comfort Him, beholding Him
With love so tender, fervent, warm,
And He will sense: my heart and soul
Are filled with love for Him alone.

I'll comfort Him by gratefully
Recounting all He's done for me,
By thanking Him for all His love.
Oh, can His heart now still be grieved?

I'll comfort Him, His heart delight
With songs of love in deepest night.
Such steadfastness would touch His heart
And comfort sweet to Him impart.

I'll comfort Him with many a tear;
Will that console my Lord most dear?
'What joy indeed such tears will b ring
When someone shares My suffering.'

I'll comfort Him, think of a way
To bring His sad heart joy today:
Some word, some deed, some little thing
For Him, my dearest Lord and King.

I'll comfort Him, make known the pain
He bears in these last times again,
That many a soul may join to bring
Him comfort in His suffering.

(13. My Jesus's Heart Must Be Consoled
Song Book: I Want to Console You
Written by M. Basilea Schlink)

Thank you for your prayers,
friendship and support.
May God bless each one of you abundantly

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary



31 WATCHWORDS
— GOD LAMENTS —
HOW WE CAN BRING COMFORT TO HIS HEART

1. HEAR THE LAMENT OF GOD

01 | God's Heart Still Weeps
02 | Love Cannot Remain Indifferent
03 | Learn to Lament What God Laments
04 | Never Let Your Heart Grow Cold

2. ALLOW GOD TO SEARCH YOUR HEART

05 | Begin with Your Own Heart
06 | Repentance Is Love Returning Home
07 | Let Nothing Harden Your Heart
08 | Give God Your Undivided Heart

3. BECOME A COMFORT TO HIS HEART

09 | Do Not Only Seek His Comfort – Bring Him Yours
10 | Let Your Love Be His Consolation
11 | Be Faithful Where No One Sees
12 | Make Your Life an Answer to His Lament

4. STAND IN THE GAP THROUGH PRAYER

13 | Let Tears Become Intercession
14 | Stand Where Others Turn Away
15 | Pray Until Your Heart Shares His Burden
16 | Be a Watchman, Not a Spectator

5. LOVE WHERE THE WORLD HAS LOST ITS LOVE

17 | See People Through the Eyes of Jesus
18 | Answer Hatred with Holy Love
19 | Let Mercy Interrupt Indifference
20 | Forgive as One Who Has Been Forgiven
21 | Bring the Peace of Christ Into Every Encounter

6. TURN COMPASSION INTO ACTION

22 | Let Compassion Cost You Something
23 | Be the Answer to Someone's Cry
24 | Never Underestimate the Holly Power of One Faithful Life
25 | Let Your Faith Become Visible

7. LIVE FOR WHAT BRINGS JOY TO HIS HEART

26 | Choose Obedience Over Convenience
27 | Love Him More Than You Love Your Own Way
28 | Let Your First Love Remain Your Greatest Love
29 | Be a Living Witness to His Faithfulness
30 | Let the Hope of Eternity Shape Your Life Today
31 | Let Jesus Find Comfort in You

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