

Reading: John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

There was a King who had a friendly minister. The Minister had a favourite expression, "It is the Lord's wish. It is for the best". He would always repeat this and nobody took him seriously until one day when the king and the Minister went hunting together. So engrossed were they in the chase that they wandered deep into the forest. Suddenly, it was evening and the king realised that they were lost.

The minister remarked, "It is the Lord's wish. It is for the best".

"I think we are lost. We were tracking the tiger, now the tiger will chase us!" king said.

The minister repeated, "It is the Lord's wish. It is for the best".

The king was irritated but kept quiet. Just then was heard the roar of the tiger. The frightened horses bucked, throwing off the king and his minister and ran away. The king got up with excruciating pain in his bleeding hand; his finger was badly injured.

Again the minister pointed out, "It is the Lord's wish. It is for the best". One can well imagine what the irate king's reaction would have been!

Hungry and parched in the humid heat of the forest, they came across a well. But when they looked inside, they realised that it was very deep with hardly any water and no vessel to draw it up. Angry and frustrated, the king exclaimed, "The water is so shallow!"

"It is the Lord's wish. It is for the best".

This was the last straw. The king lost his temper and pushed the minister into the well. Even as the minister was falling he uttered, "It is the Lord's wish. It is for the best".

By now the king was convinced that his minister was quite crazy. Soon after, a tribe of cannibals found the king and decided that he was the right person for their sacrifice. The king was tied up. Just as he was about to be killed, the priest declared, "We cannot sacrifice him. The gods will get angry. He has a blemish - his finger is wounded. You cannot make an imperfect offering." They released the king.

Suddenly the king remembered the words of his minister. He ran back, recalling the shallow well, hoping that his friend was still alive. He helped him out, told him the whole story, and asked, "You are a man of God. You stayed all night in the well not knowing whether you would be saved. What good happened to you?"

"Oh! King", replied the wise minister, "If I were not in the well and was with you, you would have been saved but I would have been sacrificed!"

Dear friends, learn to deal with your sorrows. Don't cover them; don't run away from them. Take them as a test and a challenge. You will discover a thrill and a sense of pride when you come out successful. Always remember that whatever happens in life happens for the best. If you can keep this attitude with you, sorrow is well managed and loses its power to overwhelm you.

