

# DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Nate  
Bourmann of  
Mt. Lebanon  
Lutheran Church &  
School

"The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble." Psalm 9:9

My sister has down syndrome and I love her to pieces. Maybe I heard this story wrong, but I remember my parents saying that early on in her life they had the choice to ship her off to a home for kids with down syndrome. I'm glad they didn't. I'm glad to have her in my life and to be her big brother.

This just highlights one of those things that we often do in our society. We push people off to the fringes if they are outside the central part of our attention. We push people to the margins.

Thankfully, these people on the fringes of society do not remain in God's peripheral vision. He sees everyone all at once all the time. And he cares for each one as if they were the only one in the whole world; his care is personal. He sees and cares for the single mom who struggles to make ends meet. He sees and cares for the homeless person just trying scrape by. He sees and cares for the cancer patient who battles not just cancer but depression every day. He sees and cares for the drug addict who desperately wants to quit but finds himself/herself trapped by the addiction. He sees and cares for the poor, the desperate, the broken, the widow, the orphan, the abused, the enslaved, the elderly, those in nursing homes, those with mental illnesses, those with mental weaknesses. He sees and cares for them all.

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Most importantly, he sees you. Though you may feel forgotten, though you may face a mental illness that no one can see, though you may be marginalized, the LORD sees you. He is a refuge for you. He sees and cares for you.

## **PRAYER**

**Lord God, you came to care for the least, those forgotten, overlooked, and misjudged. You came to give first place to the last, those left behind, misunderstood and undervalued. You came to give a warm welcome to the lost, those who are orphaned, abandoned, and destitute. You see and you care for them. You see me and care for me. Help me to know how valued and valuable I am to you. Continue to care for me as you always have. Amen**

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