

## Thought for the day – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

By Revd John Marshall

### Thoughts from Garth Hewitt **Occupied Territories IVP**

Kit and Jill gave me this book and I am enjoying reading it. It is good to remember Garth's visits to St James. The Dalits are the people we knew as untouchables in India.

Garth Hewitt writes,

The cross can also be a sign of comfort, particularly to those who feel alienated. The Dalits see special symbolism in the cross. They say that Jesus' humanity and his divinity are to be understood in terms of his dalitness, or brokenness, and that his dalitness is best symbolized by the cross.

A P Nirmal says "On the cross he was the broken, the crushed, the split, the torn, the driven-asunder and a Dalit in the fullest possible sense of that term. 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' he cries aloud from the cross. The Son of Man feels that he is God-forsaken; the feeling of being God-forsaken is at the heart of our Dalit experiences and Dalit conscientiousness in India. It is the Dalitness of the divinity and humanity that the cross of Jesus symbolizes.

Brokenness belongs to the very being of God. God is one with the broken people. God suffers when God's people suffer. God weeps when God's people weep. God laughs when God's people laugh. God dies when God's people die and God rises again in God's people's resurrection."

Nirmal "From no people to God's people"