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Focus: Pashtuns

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PREPARE YOUR HEART

Read Mark 11:22-25

Take time to **repent** of any sin that the Spirit brings to your mind. **Ask** God to increase your faith in Him and what He can do.

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

Here are some suggestions...

You are the Path Jesus) **Pashto** - Mawer Music <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IASue-PgFTg</u> (Glorious be your Name Jesus) **Dari** - Mawer Music <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u>

<u>v=p8S18dIL-Ro&t=16s</u>

I Believe - Jonathan David Helser & Melissa Helser https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x78dH4M-IPw
No One Like Our God (We Crown You)- Circuit Riders Music https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=mHzDh2B7npQ&list=RDEWwhiCoJY-U&index=4

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Read Matthew 13:31-35

Pray out of the insights you receive from this scripture about the Kingdom of God.

Ask God to do it among the Pashtun!

ABOUT PASHTUNS

Population: over 50 000 000 worldwide

The Pashtun are the **largest tribal people group** in the world. Mostly abiding in Central Asia, specifically Pakistan (29 million) and Afghanistan (13 million). Many also have made their home in India (3.5 million) and the United Arab Emeritus (about 380 000) and, to a lesser degree, in many other nations.

Pashtuns hold a **rich and vibrant culture,** they are extremely hospitable and loyal people. **Pashtunwali** 'The way of the Pashtun' is the code of life that guides the way Pashtuns live. Some of the key principles that underpin their code of life is *hospitality, loyalty, revenge, justice and honour.*

Within the Pashtun people cluster their are numerous major tribes. While **99.9% of Pashtuns claim to be Muslim**, and most of them adher to the Sunni sect of Islam, some tribes follow the sect of Shi'a Islam. Pashtuns tend to be very religous and zealous people, **passionate about their faith and family honour**. Their **mother tongue is Pashto**, however, there are nine major Pashto dialects; so far we are celebrating the **complete translation of the Bible** into one of those dialects.

While many faithful followers have sort to share the Good News with the Pashtun throughout the years, very little visible fruit can be seen. We **praise God for the courageous few** who have chosen to follow Jesus in spite of all the challenges!

Let's pray for a turning of the tide spiritually and for disciple making movements among the Pashtun; with God all things are possible!

PRAY FOR PASHTUNS

in Afghanistan, Pakistan and BEYOND!

- -Pray for dreams and visions of Jesus Christ; for insight into the meanings, and the next steps to take.
- -Pray for Pashtuns to experience **secure HOPE** for **life** with God forever, restoration of their **honour** before God, **peace** with God and man, and the **transforming power** of the Spirit.
- -Pray for the **leaders of Afghanistan** to have humble hearts to seek the wisdom and ways of God for their land and to lead the people with integrity, honour and righteousness; and for them to receive revelation of the Way.
 - -Pray for God to **pursue people like Saul** and transform their lives with an encounter with Jesus and their lives turned completely around to zealously follow Jesus and share Him with others. (Acts 9:1-31)
- -Pray for God to turn the **hearts of the younger generations** to Himself, for soft and truth-seeking hearts and open minds to Jesus Christ.
- -Pray that **strongholds will be broken** (false religion, hate, revenge, pride), that God will open rivers in the dry lands of Afghanistan & Pakistan.
- -Pray for **Pashtun believers** for the power of the Holy Spirit to clothe them daily and remove all fear and mistrust, that they will be committed and obedient disciples who will be wise and passionate about sharing the good news
- -Pray for **Pashtun leaders** to emerge who will train and equip other disciples to pass on what they have received of the Kingdom

PASHTUNS IN THE DIASPORA

Insight into Pashtuns in FRANCE

The pressure to abide with Islam and to remain faithful Muslims remains very strong even now that they live in France. Many Pashtuns in France really struggle with integration and mostly remain among themselves. Many speak very little French even after many years. In their small communities the religious pressure and surveillance is very present. Pashtun women are oppressed very strongly, even in France. Many of them mostly stay inside and have to get their husband's permission for everything, even meeting with other women, going out, shopping etc. Because of this their mental health tends to be poor, their sense of self-worth and self-confidence is very low. They are also very hard to reach spiritually, because they are kept inside and can't easily be reached by female workers.

- -Pray for deep **spiritual hunger** that leads them to ask "forbidden questions" and to seek outside of Islam. Pray that the search for Truth won't lead to secularism but to a true encounter with Jesus.
 - -Pray for courage for **Truth-seekers** to break out of these "prisons", even though it will lead to rejection and persecution.
- -Pray for **Pashtun women** to have prepared hearts for the seed of the Kingdom and to have access to friendships with disciples of Jesus.
- -Pray for encounters with a **people of peace** that would lead to a groups of Pashtuns reading the the scriptures in the coming months!

WORKERS

Pray for **local and international workers** in Afghanistan, Pakistan, UAE, France and other diaspora locations...

– to have encouragement, perseverance & courage

- to walk in the discernment, humility and power of the Spirit and for healing and miracles when they pray
 - to be connected with truth-seekers and for divine appointments with those who are 'good soil'.
 - -to learn their heart language and culture and share the love and hope of Jesus in Word and deed.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 36-37:1-14

'And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.'

- Ezekiel 36:26-27

'..."Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put

breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."

- Ezekiel 37:4-6

Prophetically proclaim these words over the Pashtun people!

Pray God would...

-give soft and responsive hearts to the Pashtun.

-breathe His Spirit into them and bring them spiritual life.

-do this across the Pashtun tribes, raising up whole peoples for His Glory!

OTHER RESOURCES

Pray while watching this 3 minute video about Pashtuns https://prayercast.com/prayer-topic/pashtun/

Learn more about Pashtuns ⊕Pastunes — RAP