



# Invitation for a Walk

Today I want to invite you for a walk.

It will not be an easy, pleasant route, the kind we take to clear our heads.

Instead, it will be an opportunity to weep with those who weep and cry out for those who don't even know how to pray.

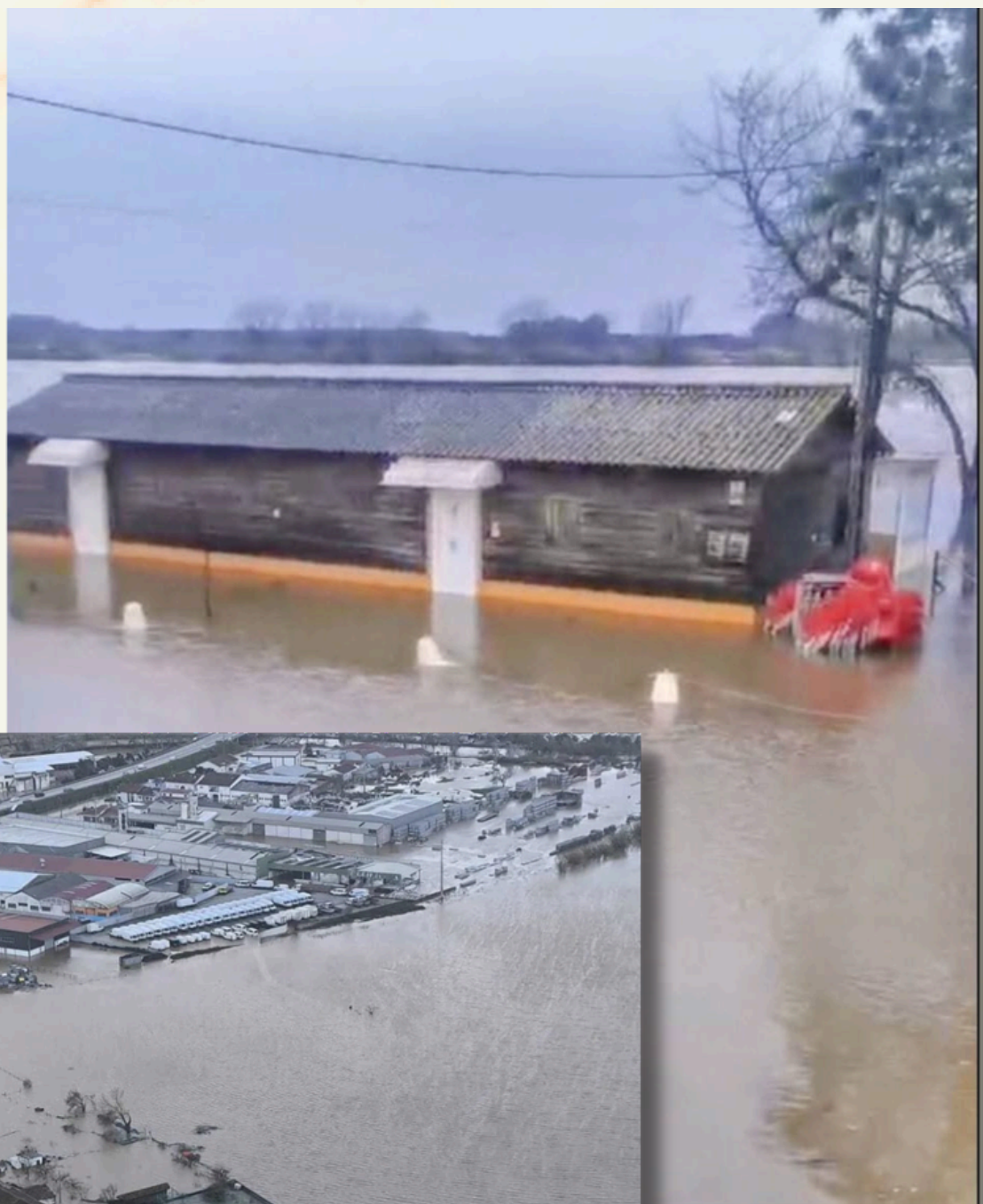


Look at the streets in **Leiria** and **Pombal**!... what you see is not just mud; it is the weight of entire lives swept away by the storm.

There are destroyed houses, closed businesses, homeless families. Hundreds of houses have no power.

Two weeks have passed and many streets are still without electricity and communication systems.

The saddest part is that some residents are no longer here to tell us how it all happened.



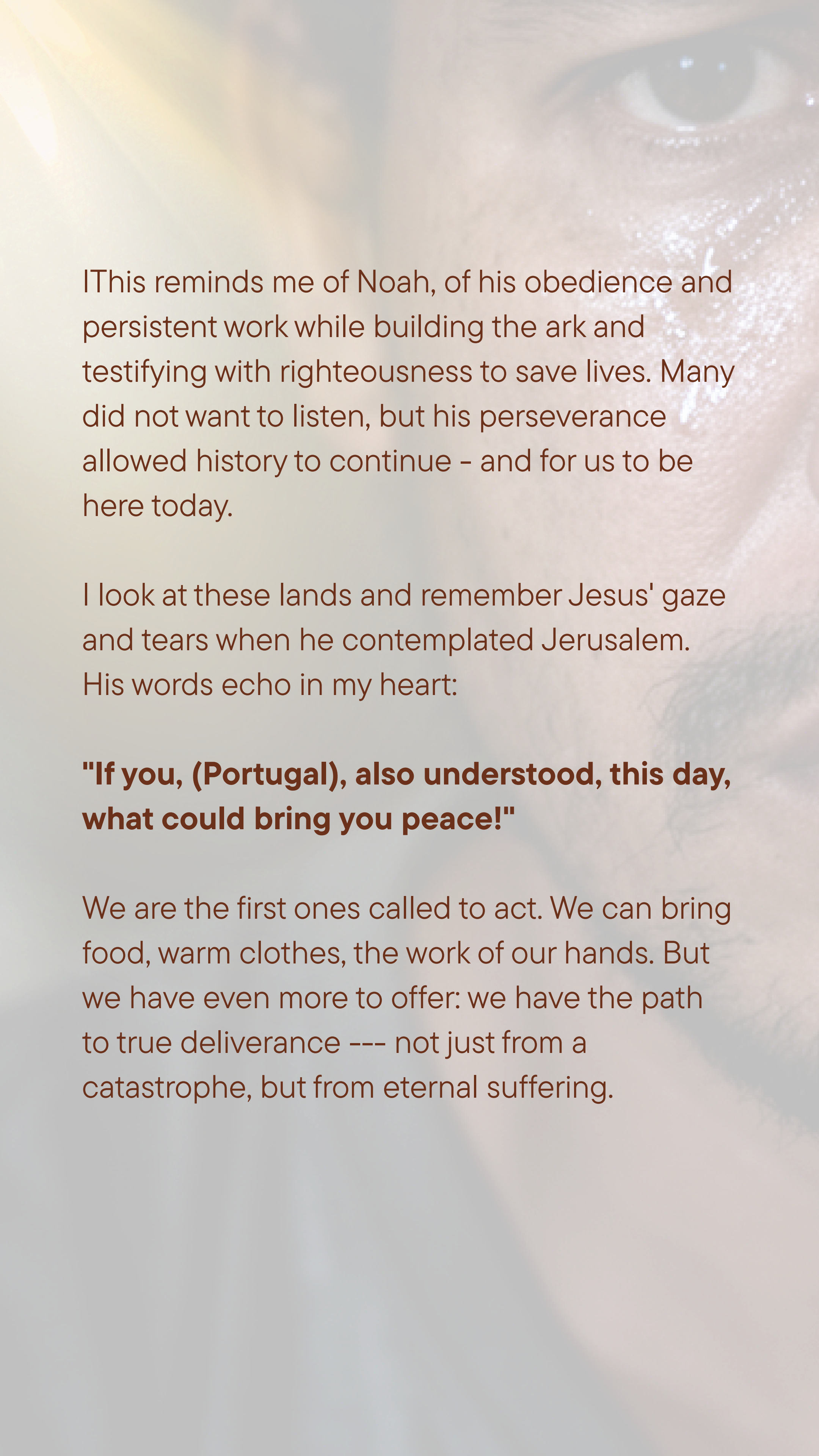
Now we move on to **Valada**, a town near my house. The Tagus River overflowed and closed the doors to this village. No one enters, no one leaves, except the firefighters, who travel kilometers by boat to bring a little hope to those trapped by the waters. Here in **Valada** lives Susana, and she too cannot leave home to go to work.

Here in **Cartaxo** we didn't suffer major losses; even so, water has infiltrated into the church meeting hall and also into the room in our house. This will bring us extra expenses. But every day I thank the Lord for being inside my house, because what is an infiltration compared to so much calamity?!



I have been comforted by seeing how hundreds and hundreds of people, in Portugal and even in other countries, have mobilized to help, sharing what little or how much they have with those who lost everything.





This reminds me of Noah, of his obedience and persistent work while building the ark and testifying with righteousness to save lives. Many did not want to listen, but his perseverance allowed history to continue - and for us to be here today.

I look at these lands and remember Jesus' gaze and tears when he contemplated Jerusalem. His words echo in my heart:

**"If you, (Portugal), also understood, this day, what could bring you peace!"**

We are the first ones called to act. We can bring food, warm clothes, the work of our hands. But we have even more to offer: we have the path to true deliverance --- not just from a catastrophe, but from eternal suffering.

**How about we sit down now in the  
protection of our home and give thanks?  
We are privileged!**

But I also want to invite you to pray together  
with me for these people?

I want to share with you some needs:

- Let us pray that this suffering might also draw many to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Susana is a very closed-off friend and she avoids topics about the Bible.
- Isabel, a woman with my own name, was near death in the hospital, she is physically recovered, but her heart remains full of prejudice.



-- My students - children and teenagers - have been a great challenge in terms of work and hope.

I have been insisting with them on the story of salvation and the courage to choose what is right. I put my faith in Jesus' promise to the little ones. I trust in the power of prayer.

And today I ask for special prayer for Heloísa and Sofia, who suffer from the constant altercations between their parents.

I also ask for intercession for students like Caio and Kaike who have even attended or do attend a church, but are completely oblivious to the Christian faith. They are children with many academic difficulties, but mainly in terms of attitude and respect



On March 18th, we will go on a class trip for a full-day activity titled -- Only for the Courageous -- It will be an opportunity to work on the lives of these students in a comprehensive way, applying it to the courage to do good.



We are living through a crisis on the planet and in humanity, and I ask myself: What more needs to happen for the world to believe that Jesus is coming back?

I end this walk of ours with a cry that rises from the depths of my soul:

**Use us, Lord Jesus. May we be found faithful at your return.**

*Isabel Fernandes*

**BE ONE TOGETHER**