Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #28

The Barren Soul

**Psalm 63:1 (NASB)** 1

*“O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water”*.

Not long ago I was in a local retail store that had very few patrons. It took me by surprise because the store is usually full of people. As I walked around gathering the few things I needed, I was struck by the similarities of that once-thriving building and by the many people who had a once-thriving relationship with Jesus.

As I pondered all of what I was seeing, I was taken in my mind to the Hebrews as they wondered in the wilderness. They had seen God do so many amazing things to sustain them and to prove to them that He is God and was with them. But even so many of the people believed just long enough to get with they needed for themselves but not what they needed for their souls. The dessert they were in became a symbol of the barren wasteland of their souls.

As we experience this isolation due to the virus, it also reminds me of a barren soul. Just a few weeks ago our nation was thriving in many ways. But how quickly things have changed. People are remarkably similar spiritually. They can be doing so well, growing in their relationship with the Lord, excited about the changes He is making in them, rejoicing that He has shown them He is God. But as soon as trouble comes or difficulties arise, they go back to the desert.

Beloved, it is my prayer for each of you, that you will live your life like the Psalmist. Notice the words he uses to express the depth of his heart. He is not ashamed or afraid to acknowledge that God is His God. His personal Savior, One whom he has a deep and intimate relationship with. You can tell that by what he says next. He earnestly seeks for God. There is a deep passion in His soul to follow God everywhere. No matter the cost. He is following to the point where his inner being so longs for God that he is like a man dying of thirst from the years of wandering alone in a barren wasteland. He expresses his heart this way because he knows God rescued him.

The truth is that those who know and remember their time in the wasteland of life and the spiritual death they where living in never want to go back. They never want to return to the time in life when Jesus was a subject and not a friend and the rescuer of their souls. They are the ones who remember all that God has done for them and how He always refreshes them with living water from the Oasis of His Spirit.

It is those people who find inner joy and peace amid trying times. It is those people who find contentment during social distancing and quarantine. They have a never-ending hope in their hearts even when the world seems to be chasing its tail due to fear and aimless wandering. These are God’s people. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness because they simply can’t get enough of Jesus and His amazing love.

Where is your soul beloved? Is it wondering in the wilderness of despair? Is it searching for answers to life and seeking peace in the wrong places? Is your soul content, knowing that Jesus is in full control? Or is your soul like the building that once housed hundreds of busy, excited shoppers but now is almost dead. I pray not. I pray that today, during this trying time, you will find more inner peace than ever before, and that you will share the source of your peace with those around you.

**Matthew 5:6 (NASB)** *6  "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*.”