Daily Devotion #60

The Epitome of Selflessness

***Philippians 2:3 (NASB)*** *3  “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves”*

As we watch our nation unravel, I am aware that the core problem is the human heart. God says of the heart, ***Jeremiah 17:9 (NASB)*** *9  "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”* Part of that sickness is selfishness - the desire to have what it wants despite what everyone or everything around it wants. The human heart is capable of the most disgusting and despicable things against itself and especially against others.

Just this morning I was contacting a few of my friends to let them know I love them and care about them. One friend from high school told me that someone stole $1,000 out of his truck. I don’t know about you, but I have had things stolen. There is nothing more frustrating and violating than to have someone take something from you that doesn’t belong to them. Sadly, people steal not only money, but they steal personal identities and personal value. I’m not talking about monetary things as much as I am talking about the inner person.

Many people, maybe even you, have had their heart ripped open by someone who thought only about themselves and their wants and needs. Maybe it was an emotions that were stolen. Maybe it was your view of yourself because the one you trusted was a parent or sibling or close friend or boss who made you feel less than human. Or as we are seeing now, maybe someone has stolen your value because of the color of your skin. Whatever it may be, the proof is what God says, the human heart knows only one thing: selfishness - when God is not the center of that heart.

I’m so thankful that our God is anything but selfish. God is the One who has given the most of all He has to show us what selfLESSness is and bless us and make us know that we are loved and valued. If you think for just a minute you will see what God has done through selfLESSness. Not only did He give us life, but He gave us a beautiful planet to live on. He gave us air to breath and sunlight to warm us. He gave us soil that we might have food to nourish and sustain us. He gave us water to quench our thirst. He gave us each other for companionship and friendship. And He has promised to be with us in our lonely times so that we will not be overwhelmed with life and all its pressures. And most importantly, He made a way for us to be with Him forever, even though we have to go through death to get there.

God is the epitome of selfLESSness. He is never the problem. He is always the solution. He is the One who can fix all that is wrong. He is the One who can make life worth living when all seems hopeless. He is the One who gives us the promise of a beautiful future.

I have a daily devotion that I love to read called The Valley of Vision. It is full of great encouragement. Today is no less encouraging as the focus is on our selfLESS Savior.

“*Christ was all anguish that I might be all joy, cast off that I might be brought in, trodden down as an enemy that I might be welcomed as a friend, surrendered to hell’s worst that I might attain heaven’s best, stripped that I might be clothed, wounded that I might be healed, athirst that I might drink, tormented that I might be comforted, made a shame that I might inherit glory, entered darkness that I might have eternal light. My Savior wept that all tears might be wiped from my eyes, groaned that I might have endless song, endured all pain that I might have unfading health, bore a thorny crown that I might have a glory-diadem, bowed his head that I might uplift mine, experienced reproach that I might receive welcome, closed His eyes in death that I might gaze on unclouded brightness, expired that I might forever life*.” Let’s follow His example and be selfless today.