Daily Devotion #82

Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary

*John 19:30 – “Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”*

Many of you will remember the song written by Bill and Gloria Gaither and Ladye Smith titled “Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary”. Even now you can probably hear the song running through your mind as I mention it. “*Days are filled with sorrow and care. Hearts are lonely and drear. Burdens are Lifted at Calvary, Jesus is very near*”. Then my favorite part, the chorus, “*Burdens are lifted at Calvary, at Calvary, at Calvary, Burdens are lifted at Calvary, Jesus is very near*”. But the second stanza knocks it out of the park. “*Cast your care on Jesus today, leave your worry and fear, Burdens are lifted at Calvary, Jesus is very near*.”

One of the greatest joys of being a follower of Christ, if not the greatest joy, is knowing that God’s people don’t have to carry the burdens of life alone. The world doesn’t know that, but we do because our Lord took all the weight of sin upon Himself at on the Cross.

Aren’t you thankful for that? Aren’t you thankful for Jesus today? To know that when you wake in the mornings and your mind is filled with the cares and challenges of this life, that our Lord has put all the pressures of sin on Himself and paid the price for them. It is overwhelming to think that the Lord has loved us that much. He loved us to the point of taking from us the weight of this life so we know with assurance that we will forever be free from the drudgery and pain this life often thrusts upon us.

I was rereading this verse in John the other day and even though I have read it many times over the years, I was captivated once again by the statement, “It is finished!”. There is so much in those three words. Think about it. Everything that the prophets foretold and all that God had done throughout the ages, up to that point when Jesus proclaimed these words, was now complete. The downfall of Satan had come to its finality. I understand that Satan is not completely done away with yet, but when Jesus said, “It is finished!”, He meant that everything that was necessary to secure our salvation and our protection from the devil was done. Nothing more needed to happen. Our God had fully triumphed over the enemy of God. And his day of doom is coming.

If you are a sports buff, you are keenly aware of the feeling of winning the big game, the championship. When that game is finally won, you know that all the hard work that went in to getting there was worth it. All the hours and the practices and the preparation has paid off. You are the champion.

Beloved, as you feel yourself overwhelmed with the latest news and the continual, incessant barrage of evil stories in the news, and when you feel the weight of the world on your shoulders, remember, “It is finished!” The Lord has done what is necessary to remove the burdens you carry. He has completed all the Father sent Him to do so that you and I can live this life in peace, in the middle of great unrest by the world.

The decisions the world makes and even the people closest to us who cause us grief, whom we love dearly, cannot take away what Christ has done. Never, never, never will you have to carry the burdens of life alone. Never will you have to feel the pressure that often overwhelms the world alone. Never will you have to be fearful that something terrible will happen or that you will have to endure some great tragedy alone. Jesus has paid the price for our souls. He paid the debt we owe to the Father for sinning against Him. You are free!

Free to live a joy-filled, peaceful, contented life, loving your neighbor and your family and the very life God has given you. Take a huge breath this morning and enjoy the sweetness of God’s love for you. Let the Word of God soak into you the truth that God loves you, and nothing will ever change that. One day you will be with Him in Paradise forever. Because, “It is Finished!”