Devotion #244

Heavenly Sonlight

Matthew 21:9 (NASB) ”The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!’"

Some years ago, Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote the song, Heavenly Sunlight. Some of you may remember it. “*Walking in sunlight all of my journey, over the mountains, through the deep vale, Jesus has said, ‘I'll never forsake thee’, promise divine that never can fail, heavenly sunlight, heavenly sunlight, flooding my soul with glory divine hallelujah, I am rejoicing, singing His praises, Jesus is mine. Shadows around me, shadows above me, never conceal my Savior and Guide, He is the light, in Him is no darkness, ever I'm walking close to His side, heavenly sunlight, heavenly sunlight! flooding my soul with glory divine, hallelujah, I am rejoicing, singing His praises, Jesus is mine*.”

On the day Jesus made His way into Jerusalem for His last days on earth, the people had become so aware of Him because of all He had been doing. He had spent the past three years performing miracle after miracle, healing the sick from physical afflictions as well as demonic possession and even raising the dead to life. And the people were ecstatic. They had always been taught about the Messiah but never dreamed they would be alive during His time on earth. But now Jesus had come and had done so much for them; they were ready for Him to take His throne.

But their idea of His power and control was far different from what He came to be and do. They thought He would save them from the tyranny of Rome, but He came to save them for eternity. So on this day, the rays of spiritual “Son” shine were shinning brighter than they ever had before. But their joy would only last a few hours because Jesus was taken into custody and would soon be falsely tried and convicted of treason against Rome and crucified.

I can only imagine the pain of that day for God’s people, the ones who really believed. This was a very dark hour. There seemed to be no hope, as the One who was from God was about to be put to death. But, we know the story, don’t we? Jesus didn’t stay in the grave, He rose from the dead proving once again He is God. Praise His Name!

Many times life for us is like that day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. We look to Jesus to fix all of our problems or at least get us through them without too much pain. I’m not talking only about the people who are anti-God, but the other enemies of our souls, such as depression, gloominess, or the feelings of hopelessness. There are many, many people at this time who are greatly struggling with all the changes in our world and are looking for answers. They are looking for something that will move them into a place were they don’t have the struggles they face now. Truthfully, who doesn’t want that? All of those desires are what put us in a very similar place with the people of Jerusalem on the day Jesus rode in. They wanted so desperately to be finished with their oppressors and they wanted Jesus to rule over them with an iron rod. We want the same thing, if we are honest. We want Jesus to ride in and free us from all the things that weigh us down so heavily. But often we walk away discouraged and disenchanted with our God because He has not been what we thought He would be for us.

This is the fallacy in our understanding, isn’t it? Just like Jesus didn’t come to save the people from their bondage to Rome, Jesus didn’t come to remove the pain and frustrations of life. He came to be our light on the path of life so we could see the pitfalls. He came to give us hope that there is a better life coming. He came to show us that if we keep our eyes on Him, we will be able to get through the difficult times. He never came to rid us of the difficulties, but to give us hope and a promise that where He is, we will also be one day. He didn’t come to give us peace in a worldly since, but peace in our hearts, peace that shines no matter what the circumstance may be. May God help us to keep our hearts focused properly – looking through our circumstances to our Saviour.