Devotion #268

**Our Beautiful God**

**Isaiah 11:4** —"*With righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.”*

Remember the television show, “Hee Haw”. I know some of you will, and I know I’m going to date myself when I give this illustration, but I think it will help make the point. Remember the song Buck Owens, Roy Clark, and Archie Campbell sang, “If It Weren’t For Bad Luck, I’d Have No Luck At All”? It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out the intention of the song. Many, many people feel just like the title of this song suggests. No matter what they do or say, they are met with bad experiences or something negative. Sadly, those same people often look to God to fix their problems, and when He doesn’t do it just as they think He should, they abandon Him.

Remember the verse in **Romans 8:28 (NASB)**  “*We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*.” That doesn’t mean all things are good, but that somehow our beautiful God is able to work things for our good in the long run all because He loves us. How many of you have had to endure some emotional or financial difficulty, only to wonder what the point was, but, over time, you began to see that God, unbeknownst to you, was working good in that situation.

Things are not going well in our world. That is, if you only listen to the news. We all know the news thrives on telling us the bad things. What was once good is not considered bad and so on. But the truth is our God is still working His plan. Israel had put themselves in dire situations over the course of their early years, much like we see in our world today, and they had gotten so overwhelmed with their bad experiences, they turned from God to find some way to alleviate their despair. So God sent His prophets, one was Isaiah, to remind His people that although things looked grim, He was still in control. Isaiah, writing through the power of the Holy Spirit, reminds Israel that God will indeed take care of them. He will, in full display of His righteousness, judge the poor. What does that mean? God is saying that He will vindicate the poor, those who have been taken advantage of. He will provide their every need.

Conversely, those who disregard His righteousness, holiness, and ultimate authority, will be judged accordingly. There will be no lopsided scales. No gross neglect for what is fair and honest. No favoritism. He will judge all people individually by what is in their hearts. And for those who put their hope in Him, He will justify them with dignity and respect. In chapter sixty-one of Isaiah, the Lord reminds the nation that when Messiah comes, He will bring them good news. News of salvation. Salvation for all who belong to Him. And not only that, but he will heal the hurts of the broken hearted and set prisoners of sin free. (Isaiah 61:1) He did these things when He came the first time.

For you and me that means that our Lord has come to give us true peace. Peace in the midst of a very troubled world. As much as you and I feel the weight, nearly everyday, of all this world is promoting. We must take heart and remember that what Christ did when He came is still what we are to focus on. In the midst of such troubling times, our hearts can be free. It’s amazing isn’t it? That no matter what we face, we can still have peace internally.

Beloved, please pray for the those who reject Him or make Him a different God. Pray that they will see His beauty, His love, He compassion, but also His holiness and justness. Pray they will see that life is to be lived according to His commands. Pray that they will see that He is a forgiving God who longs for wayward people to return to Him. He is a righteous God. He sees. He hears. He heals. Aren’t you thankful for that?