

DAY 205 – GOD’S PROMISE TO ZION

Isaiah 30-31
Zephaniah 3
Proverbs 11:13-16

*Yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.
And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “this is the way, walk in it,”
when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. – Isaiah 30:20-21*

Isaiah is preaching against rebellion. Judah has gone to Egypt to seek protection from the Egyptians. God is reminding Judah, again, to seek His counsel – not to carry out their own plan. He will fight for them. They don’t need the Egyptians. In fact, the Egyptians are rebellious and do not want anything to do with God. They do not want to hear the warnings. Are there times in your life when you don’t want to hear that you are walking away from God rather than towards Him? Does hearing the voice of God upset the plans you have? Hear Isaiah’s warnings.

Yet God promises that, even in His discipline, He will still be with His people helping them to find their way and walking on the path He has planned for them. And He defeats the Assyrians for His beloved people. *“And the Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of man.”* (Isaiah 31:8) Judah only needs God – not Egypt – to protect them.

Zephaniah warns Judah against six condemnations: rebellion which never ends with just us (v.1); not accepting God’s correction (v.2); not trusting God (v.2); self-indulgence while ignoring others (v.3); distorting God’s Word (v.4); and having no shame (v.5). Reflect on these in your life. Do you distort what you read in Scripture to fit your life? Do you know what God wants you to do and you choose to do what you want? Do you think only of your own immediate desires and ignore the future for others around you? Turn to Jesus and seek His mercy.

Zephaniah, after these warnings, then reveals prophecies regarding restoration. *“The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.”* (Zephaniah 3:15) Incredible! He is foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ who took away our sins through His death on the cross. *“He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”* (Zephaniah 3:17) Oh, to know that Jesus, in spite of our brokenness, continues to love us and rejoice over us! Turn back to Him, always.

*“Never let anything so fill you with pain or sorrow
so as to make you forget the joy of the Risen Christ.”
– St. Teresa of Calcutta*