



DEVOTIONAL TIME

08-31-2015 @ 0900

"Happy Forever? Really?"

Isaiah 35:8-10

TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee!
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise!
Let them flow in ceaseless praise!

Isaiah 35:8-10

"There will be a highway there, called 'The Holy Road.' No sinner will ever travel that road; no fools will mislead those who follow it. No lions will be there; no fierce animals will pass that way. Those whom the LORD has rescued will travel home by that road. They will reach Jerusalem with gladness, singing and shouting for joy! They will be happy forever, forever free from sorrow and grief."

QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

- Have you ever allowed disasters of the day or tragic times to turn your mood from happy bliss to bitter sadness "in a heartbeat"? Did you realize in that moment that you had a choice?
- Were you ever so weighed down by unexpected events, excess stress, nameless worry and unfocused fears from the "realm of what if" until you longed for just a little happiness?
- Do you know people who seem to maintain an "even keel" in the cruelest chaos? Does their joy "bubble up" and overflow, even in the most trying times? Do you ever seek their "secret"?

We all know times in which "happiness" seems to "hang by a thread". One moment we experience life as the greatest gift ever, and couldn't get any better, then sudden disaster "slaps us silly", and we are sure the bottom of our world fell out. In such "reverses", it seems that changing circumstances make catching and holding onto happiness a complete impossibility. Then along comes Isaiah telling us of a Time God will establish, in which His children will be forever happy, a Time beyond sorrow or grief. On the surface, this seems wishful thinking. At first glance, it may even appear to be utterly impossible, and it is... without *God*. In this world, we can hear many voices appealing to our hunger for happiness. Many of them seem to offer "short cuts" or "easy streets". Whether we attempt to set our "happiness" on people, who offer relationships, networks, careers, status, places or other "things of value", or despair of ever really finding it at all, we can miss the "Holy Road" revealed to Isaiah so long ago. If we attempt to build our happiness on any other foundation than God, we are stacking a "house of cards" on a "sleeping volcano". For "everlasting happiness" (free of sorrow and grief), we must search for an "Eternal Foundation", and there is only One. Wise people learn pretty quickly that nothing in this world lasts forever, so any "Lasting Foundation" needs to be "other-worldly". That is where the Divine One meets us, calls for our belief, and offers us a place of our own in His eternal Heavenly Kingdom. Hear Isaiah proclaim in His Name: "There will be a highway there, called "The Holy Road!" The "world" will offer many counterfeits of that "High Way", so we must search carefully for the real "Holy Road"! God, grant us the Grace of True In-Sight! You have spread Your "Holy Road" before us through the ages, but we are often distracted by appealing avenues of temptation, bustling boulevards of earthly opportunity, and lively lanes of self-centered satisfaction. Save us from these "freeways of folly", and continue to lead and guide us to the Lasting Joy only You can share. You are more than our Security; You alone can hold our feet firmly to the "Holy Road". Only then can we travel safely and far in the Happiness of the Blessed! Life will still hold challenge, but You are more than equal to all the opposition Your Chosen may find along that "Holy Road"! Lead on!