



## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

*Where is God when it hurts? ... by Billy*

### **READ ISAIAH 63: 15; 64:1**

- Today we are asking the perennial question, where is God when it hurts? Perhaps your hurt has to do with betrayal, or with a sense of deep sorrow. God knows and cares.
- “Look down from Heaven and see” Here is a plea for a fresh visitation. “Visit this vine” (Psa.80:14c) “From your holy and beautiful habitation”
- Psa.33:14 reveals that God looks down from Heaven upon the inhabitants of the world so this is not an empty request. We must understand that God scrutinizes our situation- and particularly how we are formed by the changing events.
- “Where are your zeal and your might” (Zeal = Jealousy, envy).
- The might and the jealousy of God for His people is revealed at the cross (Isa.59:17). If God is indifferent and insensitive to our brokenness why would He suffer the death of the cross?
- “Our Redeemer from of old is your Name”. There is a tendency to panic in the moment, as if there was never a proven case of God’s intervention.
- We could write many accounts of such tender mercies but history is quickly forgotten. The hurt we feel is not the ultimate reality. The thing that will never change is that we have been bought with a huge price.
- The pruning of the vine and the disciplining of the child will continue but it doesn’t change this reality. “O Lord why do you make us wander from your ways and harden our heart so that we fear you not?”
- In the shadows of our pain and hurt we tend to drift farther away from God. The cause of hardening is the deceitfulness of sin that comes when we begin to rely on our own understanding of things.
- Pharaoh hardened his own heart to begin with and God gave him over to his stubborn will.
- The heart choosing disobedience hardens progressively against God’s way until the point of no return is reached. (known only to God) - Alec Motyer.
- “O that you would rend the heavens and come down that the mountains might quake at your Presence.” The hurts we feel should drive us closer to God.
- The prophet recognised that the judgments and disciplines of God were His means of teaching righteousness. (Isa.26:9)
- He longs for a breaking through of God’s Presence so that every perceived mountain will be viewed in the light of His majestic glory. ■

## WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 38

### Events /Notices

- ▶ **Major disruption to traffic** this *Sunday*. We have been advised to use public transport to travel to the city. Church will begin at 11.00, there will be no pre-service prayer.
- ▶ **Baptismal service** will take place next month for any who have yet to take this step of obedience. More details to follow.

### Extra Services

*If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:*

#### ▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

#### ▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

*Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)*

#### ▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).