

Lent Day 20: Monday, March 13

Isaiah 9: 1-5

MULTIPLY YOUR JOY

Isaiah 9:3...*You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.*

Have you ever suffered a great loss and felt all hope was gone? The devastation of losing something precious and not knowing how you could recover from the loss—maybe you felt it would be impossible to replace the things or be restored. This is how the children of Israel and Judah felt. They were destroyed but God promised to restore them. He was going to restore and increase them so much that they would celebrate and rejoice over the abundance received. He promise was to a people who suffered great loss of land, loved ones, humiliation, and deportation to a foreign land. The people were walking in darkness. They were oppressed by their captors and their future was one of despair.

Isaiah gave a word of hope to the people by sharing what God promised. God said he would increase the nation with joy. Restoration of health and a blessing that they would not have room to receive all that he will provide. Isaiah prophesied that God would bring joy to them, and it will not be a temporary fix. It will be a lasting joy. The joy will be a harvest of contentment, delight, and peace. God makes this same promise to us today. We can also experience this increased joy no matter what our circumstances are. God will restore us when we ask for his help and have the desire to live for him.

As we think of the Lenten season, a time of repentance and turning ourselves back to God, we can experience the joy that no one else can give. A joy that will last forever.

PRAYER

Father God, give us a heart that can forgive as you forgive. Give us a heart that will love as you love. In this season we want to be restored by you. Help us to live our lives connected to you. Let our desires be your desires for us. Give us the joy that only you can give that will last forevermore. In Jesus' Name...Amen.