

## WE ARE ALL GUILTY

Yesterday I was down in the office when I heard a couple of our children starting to fight over the wooden railroad set. They were both being greedy. No one was conceding to the other. One stomped off angrily and another was in tears. They both ended up in their rooms reading their Bibles and the railroad set was taken away for the rest of the day.

I went in to speak to one of them and was reminded of something Oswald Chambers had said. "The essence of sin is that we think we have the right to ourselves." That would not only include railroad sets and all other material possessions but money and the more subtle things like our pride, reputation, personality (that's just the way I am). Then it struck me. What about the Great I Am who has taken up residence and is making me into His very own image? We think we have the right to our feelings (I don't feel like it!) or (I don't like that person!) or (I've got a right to be angry, resentful, unforgiving, etc.) No. Jesus bought me with a price. I am not my own.

So now I'm talking with my daughter. Jesus reminds me "What did you do?" "Lord, I took away the train set." Then He reminded me of His people Israel in the Old Testament record. How he raised up heathen nations, one after another to rebuke and chastise His people. Yet they didn't listen. The Psalmist records it for us in Psalms 106:41-46.

Psalm 106:41-46 41 And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them. 42 Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand. 43 Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked *him* with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. 44 Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry: 45 And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies. 46 He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives. (KJV)

Don't say in your hearts God is judging this nation. No, first and foremost He judges His people. He is taking away railroad sets, so to speak, and He uses heathen nations and peoples to do it. We have not given Him the Glory He requires. We have not given Him all that He requires. We have spent days without number ignoring the pleadings of the Holy Spirit to come away and spend time with the Lord Jesus in Prayer and in His Word. I know I'm guilty. My schedule was first, then that, of my husband, and then, my children.

**WE ARE DULL!!** Our hearts do not break for what breaks His heart. He is unable to intercede through us. He goes to and fro throughout the earth seeking an intercessor. He only needs one who is totally yielded to Him for His Power to be manifested in the Earth.

There will always be crazy, fanatical men in the Earth, used of the Devil, with God's permission to do what they will do. God allows this because we are guilty and need to be taken to the woodshed for a spanking. This is the condition of the Church in our nation today.

He is our only defense against such a disaster in the future. We must awaken, repent and surrender ourselves fully to Him again. He then becomes our strong tower. And when

God's people repented, He relented of His judgments against His people. He had Mercy and heard their cry.

Don't point the fingers at Muslims, Saddam Hussein, bin Ladin, or Bill Clinton or the heathen of our nation. They are all puppets upon God's stage. ALL of the events of history are ordered by the Lord. He raises up and brings low for the sake of His dealings with His people. We are the focus of His chastisements and judgments.

All true revivals have started with reviving the Church. The buck stops with us, folks. We are the guilty ones, Church. It's time to fess up and return to your Lord!

In the constraining Love of Jesus,

Sandy Martindale

Post Script:

Romans 8:38,39 Try reading with the emphasis on the last seven words. Even our President fell under the pressure and was unable to utter these few words when speaking publicly from New York City this last week at the scene of the devastation of the World Trade Center. Will your life declare these words in the coming days ahead?

Jim