

Living Lent | Friday, March 23

Beth VanDerbeck

“Restore the Joy of my Salvation”

Today's Reading: Psalm 85:1-7

You, Lord, showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger. Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us. Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations? Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation

Psalm 85:1-7 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Can you recall a season when you drifted away from God? Are you in such a season now? We all have them. Times when we get caught up in the busyness of life, we stop going to church, stop praying and reading scripture, stop hungering for Him. We become good people who have lost our saltiness. We become lukewarm, looking like the rest of the world in the use of our time, talents, and treasure. We live in ways that don't resemble the faith we profess.

Today's reading opens with the Psalmist remembering times when the people enjoyed God's favor, living close to Him, and enjoying the benefits of His unfailing love. But something has changed, and

he knows God is unhappy, even angry, with them. The Psalmist cries out, restore us. Revive us. Do it again! (Implying this has happened before)

The Psalmist is crying out to God to show His love and restore the people's salvation. Why is he not giving the people a to-do list of the actions they need to take to revive their hearts? Because the Psalmist knows a return to God starts with the awareness that we need God to do something in us. We need God to change us, from the inside out.

Today, many of us have drifted away from God and look so much like the world that we can't see our own need to be revived. We are chasing the life of Hollywood projects, the American dream, and we look and live like the

culture around us. Could we be in a season where God is displeased with us? Could we need individual revival?

Today is a great day to be aware of your heart and need for God. It's a great day to cry out (or whisper) to Him...Do it again, Lord. Show me Your love. Restore the joy of my salvation.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ: