

November 28, 2022

Preparing for New Life

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#)

*He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.
⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!*

These words of Isaiah's prophecy start with "In the days to come." In the days to come, things will be different. In the days to come, things will change. In the days to come, we will not be the same. How do we prepare for the days to come, for New Life? What is this New Life? Is it here on earth, or do we speak of what comes after this life on earth?

Isaiah spoke of life here on earth, a future when conflicts would be resolved--not by war--but by God's arbitration and judgments. At least that is one interpretation of this passage. And that can be a very hope-filled vision.

But what does this passage mean for me in this time of Advent, this time of preparation for the coming birth of a Savior? What does it mean to prepare for new life? Or even, what is this new life I am to prepare for?

I have accepted a call to be the Potomac Highlands District Lay Leader. That is certainly a call to a new life for me. I am now walking a new path, but yet an old path. I have never been in such a position, so it is new to me. But it is a path of God's calling, and She has prepared this path, and walks it with me.

I prepared for this by prayer and supplication, and with the prayers of friends, old and new. I took with me on my journey the words of Isaiah: to look for God's instruction and to walk by the light of the Lord.

As I write these words it sounds so simple and straight forward. But sometimes the "instruction" is not as clear as I would like and the answers to questions seem hidden in the dark.

As I am vigilant, dedicated in my spiritual disciplines (and how hard that can be sometimes!) I will hear God's voice more clearly. My "preparing" will be acknowledged: the plowshares will make ready the ground; the pruning of unproductive branches will happen as I "walk by the light of the Lord."

Prayer: *Lord God, may we walk by Your Light and so be strengthened for the days to come. Amen.*

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