

DAY 23

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 21

*"...the seeds of good works must
be watered by a river of tears!"
—Fulgentius of Ruspe*

"...rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." Joel 2: 13

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

The famous farmer-poet Wendell Berry once wrote that we are not a nation that contains a homeless population, rather, we are a homeless nation. A nation where people have lost all concept of place, belonging, and a true sense of the self -- withering under the weight of distraction.

As Christians, we also have become victims of the perpetual commercial of self-indulgence and self-promotion. We need more than sentimental religion and happy thoughts. We need to return to the living God and recover our communities, for the sake of the Gospel, by first taking the time to seek His face and learn His ways.

More than liturgy, or Sunday prep, we have learned that God wants broken hearts in the inner-man of the Pastor. The Prophet is clear: open your heart, and cry out to God in the assembly of the people. As Joel says, "Why should they say among the people, 'Where is their God?'"

God seems to enjoy doing the miraculous when those whom He partners with - his Church - actually do the work of prayer, first! May we begin by asking God for a fresh move of His Spirit by breaking our hearts for this people and this place.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Almighty God, whose heart was ripped open and revealed on a bloody cross, and whose eyes burn with passionate love for His people, give us the blessing of capturing your heart for a broken world. May we live under the happy burden of prayer, and the reminder that you are in our midst. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, be not far from those we pray and labor over. Heal, save, and deliver from the bondage of sin, and restore their nature to wholeness. May everyone on our list come to a real encounter with your Spirit, and tremble. In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

RETURN



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