

Tuesday 4th August Andrew Baddeley

Good morning everyone, welcome to Tuesday's devotional. You may be wondering where I am, I'm actually on top of Castle Hill Mere, a place I often love to come and pray and worship, and particularly pray for our nation and pray for His heart for our nation and the nations. I love coming up here. You can see all around this whole region, [photo below] Shaftesbury and Gillingham and the 'nation' around you and I love praying for the nation.

I was thinking about this today, thinking about the nations, and coming up here to pray, really feeling God's heart again for this nation, really feeling His heart for the nations. I want to start by reading a few verses from Psalm 67, which has been overflowing as part of me praying for the nation, I've been praying through Psalm 67. 'May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us' – this is a very poetic psalm and the psalmist starts off by saying 'May God be gracious to us and bless us' and we know that the blessing that Moses instructed Aaron to speak over the whole of the Israelites was the blessing psalm, 'May God bless you and may He keep you, His light shine upon you'. Another translations says, 'May God be merciful to us' and I was reading an article from Spurgeon and he says 'the best saints and worst sinners have this unity of petition in mind'. We all need to pray for His mercy, we all need to cry out for the mercy of God to come upon us.

Then he goes on to say (v2) 'so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.' I was thinking about that God's heart is that His blessings and His purposes would shine through His people, that His name would be made known throughout the earth. God's heart is for the nations and my story is that really from an early age of being a Christian, I've always had a heart to travel. I've always had a heart for the nations, a heart for mission. When we first got married I remember Helen and I standing next to Shearwater lake and looking over and God spoke to us so clearly about Lake Victoria as a place that we were going to go and minister. As of yet we haven't been together, but we have been separately to Uganda. Very soon after we went to live in South Africa for a couple of years and really God birthed in our hearts this heart for mission, this heart for the nations.

And when we came home again we got involved in working in Eastern Europe and really had no heart for Eastern Europe, it was south or it was west, but not Eastern Europe. But I met up with a couple who became friends, Jimmy and Hulda who are very dear friends now and really feel in love with the nation and the nations around there. I felt what God showed me was that it was a 'people group', His people, that wherever I found myself going, whether it's been India, whether it's been Europe, whether it's been Africa, or whether it's been my own nation and communities in my nation, that God has a heart for nations and He loves the nations. And His heart is, as it says in this Psalm, 'that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations'. And as we pray at this time, there is such a stirring to pray, is that 'God You would release salvation in the nations, that there would be such a missionary move through this nation, that You would bless Your people that they would be blessing to the nations'.

If you go right back in to Genesis chapter 12, I'm not going to read it all, but basically God speaks to Abram (as he was at that time) and He says I'm going to bless you and I'm going to make you a blessing. Basically He was saying I'm going to pour out My blessing over you and over your community and I'm going make you a blessing. Roy Godwin says that 'the blessing is the multiplication of God's favour resulting in prosperity, fruitfulness and enjoyment of victory over our enemies.' God's heart for you today as we pray over the Psalm is that He wants to bless you to make you a blessing in the nations. To pour out the life of God that He pours out through you; the Love of God, the light of His Holy Spirit, to pour out over the nations.

So how does this verse apply to me, we're reading about Abraham that happened thousands of years ago, a promise that He spoke out to him. Even in chapter 15 of Genesis He said this to him, 'look up to the heavens and count the stars, if indeed you can count them' and then He promises, 'so shall your offspring be'. So I read that and I think well Lord how does that apply to me today. Well if you turn to look in to the end of the Bible, in Galatians we read how this applies to us today. Paul is writing to the Galatians and he says, 'If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.' And an heir is someone who inherits, an heir is someone to how takes on the mantle of the promise, so if you belong to Christ this morning then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. So that means we are co-heirs with Christ today, that we are co-heirs to the promise that God promised Abraham thousands of years ago that look up to the stars and see, so shall your offspring be.

I want to say this morning as we look out to the nations, as I look out this morning and look up at this huge horizon around me, there is an offspring that God wants to raise up, there is a people that God wants to raise up. There are sons and daughters that God wants to raise up in this hour, in this time. And then Paul says in verse 6 of Galatians chapter 4 'because you are His sons, God sent the spirit of His son into our hearts, the spirit who calls out "Abba Father", so you are no longer a slave but God's child and since you are His child God has made you also an heir'. So we no longer have a slave mentality, a slave lifestyle, for we have been born as sons and daughters. We are sons and daughters of the living God and that means sons inherit. And I want to suggest this morning it's at the very heart of God's missional heart, is being rooted as sons and daughters, living as sons and daughters on this earth. We pray from a place of saying 'come on, this is our inheritance'. We're praying for salvation to rise up, to spring up from the ground, we're praying that God would move by His Holy Spirit in this time, as we go through this pandemic, that He would come and touch this earth; that He would shine out His light through His people. So the very missional heart of God is His sons and daughters around the world who know their Father, that He may bless them and show His favour and be fruitful to them.

And in Psalm 67 we hear God's heart as it continues 'May the people praise you God. May all the people praise you'. And it's like a declaration, "God, may all the people praise you in this earth". Let there be such a praise and awakening of hearts in this nation to praise You. That as we walk down the streets let the people praise You. I recently watched a video of a move of God which happened this year in Brazil. There was a mission with many people coming to witness and to pray and to worship out there and people were just kneeling in the streets, just worshipping their saviour, worshipping their God. And that's our desire isn't it, for the nation of the United Kingdom today, that Lord God let there be such a move of your Holy Spirit across this land and may all the peoples praise you God, may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy. For you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. Then the psalmist goes on to say "May the peoples praise you God, may all the peoples praise you".

O God that is our heart this morning, Lord release worshippers in the land, release people who praise you Lord Jesus and release people who turn from their ways and turn to worship you. God let this land... and then it goes on to say 'The land yields its harvest. God our God blesses us, may God bless us still; so that all the ends of the earth will fear Him'. And I can just say that for all of us, that is our prayer today, that Lord, there will be such a yielding of harvest in this land. There will be such a yielding of fruit that would come over the land of the United Kingdom. Lord we're asking for this today, we're asking Lord that You would pour out your Holy Spirit and that salvation would spring up from the ground. That God, there would be many who turn to You, there will be many who follow You and look to You at this time, that praises would erupt from the ground. My prayer today is that Lord, for each one of us, we would know your heart for mission. That as we think about mission that it's not just going to be Africa or India, or all the nations we've been to and prayed for; but our own

nation, the United Kingdom. This area of the Blackmore vale, that I'm looking over now, I'm praying, O God would You move. Lord would You move over this area today, Duncliffe, Shaftesbury and Gillingham, Lord move over this nation that there would be a people, a company of people who would praise You and seek Your face. Lord we pray that You would release worshippers in this land.

And I pray for Your people at this time that You would so bless them and pour out Your Holy Spirit through them, that Your light would shine through Your people at this time. That God, the sons and daughters would rise up and take their place in the kingdom and seek You for the mission of God in this land. So Father we pray come, bless us in our day. Hope you have a really good day, see you soon. There's the bell ringing for nine o' clock, so God bless you, bye bye.



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