

**March 26, 2021**

**Text: Isaiah 43:23-25** *God's Mercy and Israel's Unfaithfulness*

You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings,  
nor honored me with your sacrifices.  
I have not burdened you with grain offerings  
nor wearied you with demands for incense.  
You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me,  
or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices.  
But you have burdened me with your sins  
and wearied me with your offenses.  
"I, even I, am he who blots out  
your transgressions, for my own sake,  
and remembers your sins no more.

**Devotion:** Keith Welch

During Lent we reflect on our lives and our walk with our Lord. We also think about the ultimate sacrifice that our shortcomings, and His over whelming love for us, caused to come to fruition. Our Savior, dead on a cross. I find it a dark time. I feel that "back in the day" I would have torn my clothes and poured ashes over my head. What have I caused, what have we caused? Thank goodness Lent is only 40 days and thank goodness it is 40 days. The time seems to fly past during Lent.

Spring is upon us, in my vocation that means the frost is coming out of the ground, the days are getting longer and warmer and you better get busy because it is going to get cold again in a few short months. It is a very busy time, easily distracted from everything but work. Maybe that is what the people of Israel were experiencing? Maybe their life has been good, little persecution, plenty of food and prosperity; their doing fine on their own. Unfortunately, they are forgetting to bring God along and give Him His due. No burnt offering, not requiring a grain offering, yet not even raising up a heavenly aroma. They're busy, gliding along in the good times, no need for a Savior. It is so easy to fall in this rut, we do it over and over again.

Praise God that He knows how weak we are, how easily distract, how busy we allow ourselves to become, yet He is still there. Blotting out our transgressions for His sake, not because we deserve it, but because He loves us so much to lose us hurts to bad. He promises to not only blot out that sin but to forget it. A clean slate because He loved us so much the Son died on a cross.

Closing Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father please help us to remember the cost of our redemption during the good times and the bad. Help us to find time during this Lenten season to reflect on this cost and Your undying love for us.