



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

**Sunday – May 6, 2018**

## **Heart to Heart...**

They were completely surrounded by an enemy that ruled the world. It looked like doom for the city of Jerusalem. Assyria was standing at their door while being reviled and threatened by the king. To add to the fears was Syria and Israel (northern 10 tribes) had also allied against Judah because Judah had refused to side with them to fight Assyria's advance. Fears were rampant. Panic was at a height not seen.

God took His prophet Isaiah and said: *"You are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it!"* (Isaiah 8:12) God had called Isaiah not to walk in the ways of the people around him (Isaiah 8:11). The people were being carried away by their own hysteria created by news coming from the other side. God made certain that if Isaiah was going to be in any dread of anyone it would be the holy Lord God Almighty (Isaiah 8:13).

What do we learn? People who do not know God and His ways are easily stirred in fears and woes. The news many listen to today has at its goal to create fears to get people to react. Some who profess to be children of God turn to the same avenues of fears and information that the lost realm feed on. I realize it is easy to be carried away when everyone is upset and in a state of fear. It's difficult at times not to be carried away in fears when all we hear in each news broadcast concerns how bad this is and that is. It develops our attitudes in a wrong direction and we chime right in. God is still in control of all things, even ungodly nations on this earth. We are called to not follow the ways and thoughts of the world around. We need to develop our faith to trust in God and our trust is God! That takes a sincere faith in listening to God from His word.

God is very aware of how things look and He knows how people respond. It looks like things around us are flying apart and fear can easily set in and we respond. Our faith can waver and react rather than trust in the Lord God and hold to His word. Trust is something difficult amid troubles but that should not be an excuse. God is still God and His word speaks loudly if

we would only read. It seems some know more about the current events in this world than the truth in word of God. Because people panic and paint a bleak picture of the society around us in fear is not reason for us to respond the same way. God has control and knows all the answers while working every detail after the counsel of His will. God expected His children to consult Him rather than believe and listen to those around (Isaiah 8:19). It is very troubling to see the people of God talk, react, and think like the faithless. What's even worse is to spread the news of the faithless to others. Jesus spoke plainly to His disciples: ***“In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”*** (John 16:33) Listen to I John 5:4, ***“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.”*** Jesus overcame the world and those of faith overcome also because of Him.

Where are we getting our input? Where are we turning for our insight and information? People will live in fear and panic, but God still speaks: *“Don't walk in their ways!”* Think about it!!!

Brent