

## This Isn't Heaven

Lower your expectations of earth. This isn't Heaven, so don't expect it to be.

~Max Lucado

Sometimes I forget that this world is evil. Sometimes I just float around in my own little happy bubble and tune out the rest of the world...

**“Do all you can to live a peaceful life. Take care of your own business, and do your own work as we have already told you.”**

1 Thessalonians 4:11 NCV

Focusing on the good things in life is important. It helps us focus on our good God and that helps us maintain our Peace and be filled with His Joy...

**“Finally, believers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable and worthy of respect, whatever is right and confirmed by God’s word, whatever is pure and wholesome, whatever is lovely and brings peace, whatever is admirable and of good repute; if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think continually on these things [center your mind on them, and implant them in your heart].”**

Philippians 4:8 AMP

Lately, tuning out the rest of the world is impossible. I’m forced to deal with the fact that this IS a fallen world and there is still so much evil all around us...

**Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He Prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour**

1 Peter 5:8

Tuning out the world even in good times is not always the best. We can’t pretend that this is Heaven here and now and there is nothing bad. God wants us to be in tune with the needs of others at all times. Not just during a pandemic...

**“Give freely and spontaneously. Don’t have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers GOD, your God’s, blessing in everything you do, all your work and ventures. There are always going to be poor and needy people among you. So I command you: Always be generous, open purse and hands, give to your neighbors in trouble, your poor and hurting neighbors.”**

Deuteronomy 15:10-11 MSG

This world is most definitely NOT perfect and it’s not supposed to be. Perfection is coming and it will be beyond our wildest thoughts or dreams of what it can be...

**“But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" —”**

1 Corinthians 2:9 ESV

While we wait for the perfection of Heaven yet to come, we need to accept that hard times are always with us. They just look different in each new season. Disease, earthquakes, tornados, tragedies, the list goes on and on...

**“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.”**

Romans 8:18 NLT

My prayer for us today is that we always remember that this earth is Not Heaven. May we always look out for the needs of others as we praise God for all our Blessings and we Trust in Him for His Perfect World yet to come....

**“Here on earth we do not have a city that lasts forever, but we are looking for the city that we will have in the future. So through Jesus let us always offer to God our sacrifice of praise, coming from lips that speak his name. Do not forget to do good to others, and share with them, because such sacrifices please God.”**

Hebrews 13:14-16 NCV

Amen