

A Vacation from a Vacation

by Carla Burton

It was a beautiful, sunny day when we loaded the luggage in the car and set off on our trip. The girls were all set in the back with their pillows, blankets, books and IPODS. We had our map, our hotel reservations and our sunglasses. We held hands and prayed and then began our long awaited vacation! Oh the joy of not having to go to bed at a certain time, or get up at a certain time. We were excited to eat out and to enjoy all the sites.

We spent 7 glorious days driving over 1,500 miles. We enjoyed amusement parks, dinners at nice restaurants, and sitting on the beach watching the sunset. There were days of sleeping in and nights of staying up late. There was laughter and no dress clothes at all!

And then there was that long dreaded day – the return trip. It wasn't as much fun to load the car this time. The girls were fussing a little and everyone was a little more irritated by the mile. Finally we arrived home after a full day of driving. There was grumbling as we unloaded the car, unpacked the suitcases and returned to the normal routine. There was mail to be checked and dogs to be picked up at the kennel. There were bills to pay and email to check.

Finally the next morning when I got up I was so tired and I thought now I need a vacation from my vacation. I need time to settle down and slowly work my way back into normal instead of having to jump into the deep end and start swimming.

When I read the Bible we are told to “not be weary in well doing” (Galatians 6:9). The problem is that we are so busy “doing the work” of the Kingdom that we grow weary and tired. So we set off on a “vacation” from all of that and when we come back it's all still there and we are still as tired as before. Many Christians get weary in well doing because they forget to first rule of refreshing . . . that is only comes from allowing His Spirit to connect with our spirit. Refreshing never takes place just because we change locations. Refreshing only takes place when we realize that spending time with God and renewing our hearts and minds is the only refuge. Isaiah 28:11-12 tells us that “with stammering lips and another tongue” we would receive something very special. In verse 12 it says that this is the rest where the weary can rest and this is the refreshing. Just remember a change of location is not the answer but a change of habits will be!

I love to read the New Testament and read about Jesus. So many people refuse to see the earthly part of his nature. But you can read throughout the gospels and see reflections of that part of Him. He would be ministering, performing miracles, speaking truth, teaching Bible studies (sometimes for days on end) and fulfilling His ministry. The next thing you see is He turns to His disciples and says things like “get a boat right now we going on the water”, or “guys pack your bags were headed to the mountains for a few days”, or “anyone ready for a wilderness adventure?” But you have to realize that anywhere that Jesus went that refreshing Spirit went and so I'm sure that time away was spent relaxing but also as an opportunity for Him to be refreshed by the Spirit of God.

If you feel like you need a vacation from your vacation then I would say that you haven't spent time with the right one. Instead of looking for a cabin in the mountains, or a condo on the beach why don't you just open the Word and read about all the attributes of your God. Why don't you kneel and instead of saying a word just listen for that still, small breeze to blow over your spirit. Why don't you turn off what you listening to, and stop reading and instead just sit still and meditate upon your God. Isaiah 40:31 tells us that if we wait upon the Lord that is when he renews our strength. So I encourage you today to just not change your location but to actually change your situation by taking a vacation with the Holy Spirit. Allow God to enter your heart in a special way today and you will see results that you have never seen before!