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 **An Unshaken Inheritance**

**By Rev. Sheryl Stewart**

Isaiah 58:17 (b)-14 Heb 12: 18-29 Luke 13: 10-17

RR: Psalm 103: 1-8

**Summary: We will be shaken by life, by temptation, by failure and even successes, but our God and what God offers remains unshakable.**

 I was particularly moved when the Apostle Paul spoke about God saying, “I will once more shake not only Earth but Heaven as well.” The apostle goes on to say that he is sure that God’s shake up will topple and remove everything except what cannot be shaken.

 Well, what is it that cannot be shaken? The very rocks at Mount Sanai were shaken and torn apart so that God’s 10 laws could be written on them and taken to the people. As for Heaven, when Jesus sent out his disciples to preach the Gospel and they returned, He said that he had seen Heaven shaken and Satan falling like lightning from Heaven to earth. I’ve always thought of that as good news for Heaven but rough news for anyone standing under the thunderhead on Earth.

 The sun itself became dark and the veil in the Temple meant to keep God out of sight was ripped in two the moment Jesus died. Sin and death itself were shaken when Jesus prayed, “Father forgive them” from that Cross. Nor can we escape this shakeup. Peter was sure he would be steady; yet Jesus already knew the rooster would crow twice as Peter lost courage and denied Him. So, Jesus said, “Peter, Satan has desired to shake you, but I have prayed for you, and when you come to yourself, strengthen your brethren.

 There’s a whole lot of shaking going on! Heaven and Earth are shaken, angels and saints are shaken, and I am shaken. So, what is ***not*** shaken?

 Obviously, the One who does the shaking is not shaken. Satan tried to shake Jesus on the Cross; however, Jesus was fully in God and God in Him. He was not shaken. Our obstinate sin looked unshakeable, but it fell when Jesus stood firm. So, the Holy Spirit which proceeds both from God and Jesus is also unshakeable.

 Mount Sanai of God’s law could be seen, but Mount Zion is an idea: the timeless gathering of believers. Thanks to God, we can join this crowd of good people made perfect by the prayer of the One who is perfect, Jesus. Because we are renewed by the Trinity, we are as Isaiah promised, springs of water that do not go dry. We can be called builders who rebuild the walls of character that have been shaken and can restore ruined houses and ruined lives.

 Sin may have bent us like the woman Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Jesus did not deny her or delay her healing. I have always loved the scripture which says, “A bruised reed he will not break and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.” As a gardener, I have weeded and dead-headed many things. Yet, in Jesus’ garden, only my sin is pruned away. I am too often a bruised reed or dimly burning wick, and I am grateful for God’s patience with me.

 Yes, Satan has desired to shake me (to shake all of us), and he has and will. Yet, Jesus has shaken Satan and that power of doubt and sin cannot stand. Jesus has prayed for us and, when we come to ourselves, we can encourage and strengthen each other. This is our unshakable inheritance! Hallelujah and amen!