

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Isaiah 30:8-15

Pace and Peace

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it." Isaiah 30:15b (NIV)

As I turned the corner, cars zoomed past me. Some drivers were blatantly speeding. Others were on their cell phones. I heard some of the cars before I actually saw them. What an abrupt change compared to the stillness of my quiet neighborhood street! There, moments before, I had been reveling in the beautiful morning. I saw the brilliant sunshine lighting up dew drops on grass blades. I enjoyed watching bushy-tailed squirrels scampering across the lawn. The morning's glory moved me to worship the Creator.

But now I felt edgy and distracted by the cars, and I became oblivious to the beauty around me. That realization caused me to question: Is my pace like the cars? Am I guilty of rushing about, distracted by tasks to be done, responding to loud, urgent demands, all the while failing to notice the beauty of God's presence around me? What distracts me from seeing God and hearing the Spirit's voice?

**PRAYER:** Dear God, please forgive me when I mindlessly rush and react. Amen.

Lisa M. Walkendorf—Grand Rapids, Michigan

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SUNDAY, JUNE 16

FATHER'S DAY

Hebrews 10:35-39

What if . . . ?

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. Hebrews 10:35

Father's Day weekend found Dad and me soaring through deep woods on a zip line. Peering out from the tree stand, my gaze followed the cable through a tunnel of craggy rock faces and jutting limbs. I trusted the line was stable, harnesses secure, and our guides experienced, but what if . . . ? I was the first "explorer" of the day, so I'd be first to discover any trouble. What if the recent storm had knocked a branch in the way? How does one account for the unexpected?

Whether it excites us or not, God is the God of the unexpected. Just ask Abraham, Moses, Noah, Jacob, Joseph, Gideon, Rahab, or any other biblical servant. (*For an extra blessing today, read all of Hebrews 11.*) None of their remarkable stories turned out as they expected. We only experience the thrill of God's surprises when we consider the risk and jump with faith into the divine unexpected.

**PRAYER:** Source of all that is and that shall be, help us live bold lives in your Spirit and trust that you have prepared the way ahead. Amen.

Megan L. Anderson—Kokomo, Indiana