

## E-DEVOTIONS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

I must be honest here... I had a devotional thought written for this day. Sometimes I write these thoughts a day or two ahead, just to stay 'organized.'

But as I watched the events unfold yesterday, I found myself becoming troubled about what it was I could share that would ease our minds or calm our spirits. It was hard to watch.

I turned to Isaiah. The book of Isaiah tells of a time of unrest, lack of trust and discord. Isaiah did not disappoint. In the very first chapter I came across these words:

*"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord.  
Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be white as snow."*

The words that caught me were... **"COME, LET US REASON TOGETHER"**. Isaiah is telling us clearly that the time has come for us to come together. The time has come to reason together. Some translations reveal those words as "Come, let us bring our disputes to an end."

I like that thought. It definitely is the time for disputes to end, reason and trust to take their place. We are so much better than what we witnessed in our nation yesterday.

So, what can we say of these things? I guess it's pretty simple... the time has come for us to come together, to put our disputes to an end. As the church... the Family of God... we are the peacemakers. Let's start by making peace with one another. And praying and working for peace in our nation and this world.

Wear a mask... wash your hands, fold them and bow your heads. There is so much to pray for. Ask God to lead us, each and every one... to reason together and put our disputes to an end.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, we need your guidance. As your people, as your church and as our nation. We ask for courage to 'turn the other cheek,' to forgive, but most of all to find a way to put our differences aside and unite. Unite as a church. Unite as a nation. **We are your hands and feet in this world.** Give us guidance." Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.