

Thoughts From The Heart

BY: JOSEPH SMITH

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"Difficult Neighbors"

IT IS NEW YEARS EVE AS I WRITE THIS. I^{HAD} NOTICED THAT FROM SHORTLY AFTER THANKSGIVING UNTIL AFTER THE NEW YEAR, MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS DEVOLVE INTO LOWER LEVELS OF "HATER HOOD". I IMAGINE THEY'RE MISSING THEIR FAMILIES JUST LIKE THE REST OF US, AS WELL AS ALL THE TAPPINGS OF THE SEASON. SOME WILL BE COMPLETELY IGNORED BY THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND I CANNOT BUT UNDERSTAND THEIR PAIN. SO THEY LASH OUT IN UGLINESS, AND NO ONE IS BEYOND THEIR TARGETS. SO HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THIS??

I RECENTLY FELT LIKE A SHIP BATTERED UPON THE ROCKS BY HUGO WAVES. I WAS ALREADY STRESSED BY WAITING FOR A RELEASE DATE AND DID NOT NEED THIS ADDED BURDEN. I PRAYED FOR HELP AND WOKE UP YESTERDAY TO AN EMPTY ROOM. MY CELL MATE HAD LEFT EARLY. I HAD AN UNINTERRUPTED HOUR AND A HALF TO POUR OUT MY HEART TO G-D WHO REVITALIZED ME

I also needed an attitude check because
of my thinking was on the wrong path - ANGER
AND NEGATIVITY. AS I LIFTED MY VOICE IN—
PRAISE, THE CLOUDS BEGIN TO DISSIPATE. THANKSGIVING
FILLED MY HEART - TEARS EVAPORATED. I PRAYED FOR
BLESSINGS ON THESE ANGRY MEN. THEN I
DID SOMETHING NICE FOR THEM - BY WORKING IN
THE PRISON KITCHEN AS CHIEF COOK - I BAKED
SOME CAKES FOR MY NEIGHBORS. THE BOTTOM LINE
IS WE OVERCOME "EVIL" WITH "GOOD"