

steadily, confidently, gently, toward His death on Calvary, His sufferings for us. Reaching its great climax in Is. 53. This is the third great strand in this section of Isaiah. In order to understand this section of Isaiah you need to keep all three strands well in mind.

We are particularly looking at this passage here and you want to have in mind it represents a true aspect of the character of God. That God will not hold his wrath forever, but that He will strike out against sin. Sometimes we think that we in America are a privileged nation. We look back at the of some of the men who founded our nation and we think that God has got to bless us forever. We cannot live on the goodness of those who lived before. When you look at the wickedness of those that is so widespread in our nation, when you look at the violence, when you look at the widespread pornography, when you look at the many ways in which our nation is turning away from the moral standard that God has set before us. Sometimes you wonder if this verse describes what God is going to do to our nation. He has held his peace a long time; he has given us tremendous blessing. He is still holding His peace, but we need to look to Him and repent of our sins as a nation. We turn to Him, because the day will come when he will cease to hold his peace and he will go forth as a Man of War and cry like a travail- ing woman and cause tremendous changes as He has done in so many parts of the world.

But now I want to apply this particularly to ourselves for just a minute. This situation while it describes a true aspect of the character of God, it describes something that we ourselves need to keep in mind. I mentioned the situation when someone gets so angry he begins throwing things around, and I'm sure all of you have seen some very very good people and in that case it may not last very long, but you've seen these feelings displayed as of something that has been held in and held in and then just all the sudden it just breaks loose and that's ~~what happens~~ That can happen with every one of us. You need to think about that, and you need to think about the little irritations that bother you. You need to think of the little troubles that bother you and you need to think about them and you need to say, Is this a real injustice? Is this a real situation where I am being wrongly treated or something is wrongly being done and a situation where I can do something about it. And if it is then don't hold your peace. Look for the Lord to do something. Do it tactfully if you can; do it forthrightly if necessary but do something. But in many cases you will find either that you were wrong when you think the thing through, that you have misinterpreted but you keep it locked up in your heart and it grows and grows and irritates and finally it breaks out.

I talked to a woman once who told me she had been divorced shortly before. She said she had been married to a very fine man and she said He had been very fine to her ordinarily but every once in a while he would become very excited over some little thing and he would just lash out at her, and he would use very strong language when he spoke to her, and she said she would get all upset.