



April 28, 2020

Thinking Magnificently of God

Hear my prayer, Lord; let my cry for help come to you...For my days vanish like smoke;...My heart is blighted and withered like grass;...All day long my enemies taunt me;...But you, Lord, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. (Psalm 102:1, 3, 4, 8, 12)

As we face the paralyzing effects that fear can generate, honesty with our emotions is critically important. It never ends well by pretending that we are happier or more confident than what is true. In the Psalms we find a type of gut-level honesty, a heart-felt grief laid bare before the Lord that may catch us off guard.

In Psalm 102, we see the afflicted person giving full expression to their felt desperation. They beg God to not only hear, but to come and help them. Their days seem as elusive as trying to grasp smoke, they feel the reality of their affliction in their bones. and even their enemies taunt, belittle, and shame them without any thought of their shared humanity.

But then something happens, there is a pivot in verse 12, a dramatic shift, a definitive movement in another direction. It is a pivot that moves them from an honest complaint about their situation to behold their God who is good, beautiful, true, and right. It is a shift in what they choose to think about and a movement towards thinking magnificently of God.

Jesus helps us make this pivot, for in his life we see a joyful and creative person. With his life clearly before us, it becomes difficult to think of our Father who fills the heavens and the earth as a morose and miserable monarch, a frustrated or petty parent, or even as a policeman on the prowl. Through Jesus we begin to grasp the truth of our situation. We live in a God-saturated world, one in which it is perfectly safe for us to be because the Lord promises to be with us.

Now thinking magnificently of God is not something to be done because God has some giant ego that must constantly be stroked. You see, God knows something that we all too often forget, he knows the best way to live. Being captivated by the character of God allows us the space to align our lives with the life of God.

For me, it is so easy to think I know best and understand the correct course of action - what folly. How often I've been wrong, this only underscores the insidious nature of pride. Andrew Murray, a prolific writer in the late 19th century, reminds us that humility is being preoccupied with God instead of being preoccupied with self. May we never forget that being preoccupied with self and dwelling too long in despair leads us down a path in which we miss the greatness of God and his reality in our lives.

Practice: Click link to consider the following ["Attributes of God"](#), settle upon one you feel drawn to from the list. Then complete the following sentence. **Lord because you are __ (Attribute of God) __ I will trust you with __ (Situation, Concern, Worry, Etc.) __** . Allow this to become part of your prayer to God. Feel free to send me your completed sentence via email, and I will happily respond back with mine.

With the Affection of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeff'.