



February 19, 2020

We Are Far Too Easily Pleased

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them?" - (Psalm. 8:4 NRSV)

There was a hand lotion commercial many years ago that featured a lovely lady who was at a social gathering. She put out her hand to a man, and just as he was going to take it, her hand turned into a cactus. All too often we are like that, prickly to one another, guarding against one another, so much that even a little child can be perceived as a great threat and danger to us.

Here is the point: just as we have a tremendously difficult time conceiving of or imagining what God is like, so we have a tremendously difficult time imagining what people are really like. When the psalmist asked God, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them?" he was expressing this difficulty. He had realized that, given the way that God fawns over human beings, we must be something much greater than what we appear to be.

It is curious that we often speak about people thinking too highly of themselves. Often, this is just another bit of fallen wisdom that claims we can help people by "keeping them humble," which often means humiliating them. If you watch what happens, you learn that humiliating someone is a sure way not to make him humble, in the same way, that you cannot make people lovable by hating them, or kind by being cruel to them.

There are many difficulties involved in how we think of ourselves. We cannot envision anyone placing much value on us just for who we are. Jesus understood this situation when he said, "For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?" (Matt. 16:26).

Practice: *You are the one Jesus was talking about. That is why he put it the way he did. You are the only one who can decide what your soul is worth—what you are worth—and trade it for something you deem more valuable.*

C.S. Lewis put it this way:

We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

(Q) So I ask you, what would you trade for your soul? How much are you worth? You are the only one who can decide this and exchange yourself for that which corresponds to the worth and value God places on you.