

Adam's Darkness and God's Light

Dear Lord,

Deep inside me there is a stirring which began as I read chapters 14 and 15 of The Shack Revisited by C. Baxter Kruger. Recognition of the deep imprint of our Adamic heritage became palpable. The impact of the guilt and shame Adam experienced when he ate the fruit of the tree in rebellion against You brought new insight for me. So devastating was the surety in his soul (mind/emotions) that it could never be fixed that he ran from You, his creator and greatest friend. This shame and guilt became the seed-bed for lie-based beliefs which germinate and mature throughout our lives today, and our souls still cry "Run!"

Yet in Your great love, mercy and compassion, you already had a plan in place for his (and our) redemption. All of humanity has an opportunity for restoration to the innocence and peace and joy that Adam and Eve experienced in the garden with You. Why? Because Jesus accepted into himself the consequences of our in-born rebellion inherited from Adam. He understood our twisted and darkened image of You, Lord. In His dual role of God and man, Jesus became the murdered Son even as he embraced the shame and guilt of those who murdered Him.

In the midst of all the ugliness-the meager birth, the insults, the verbal, emotional, physical and sexual abuse, the misunderstandings of even those closest to Him, the denials-He never lost sight of You. Matt 11:"27...and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." Along with our atonement, our salvation, this is the great gift Jesus gives-an opportunity for us to know You, Father, without the fatal flaw of a twisted mind darkened by the filter of guilt and shame.

Baxter says, "God walked into the room with Israel and closed the door." Oh the angst, the horror, and fear that image produces in the unrestored parts of my mind. My only posture can be flat on the floor in the presence of Your goodness, looking for a way to escape. But Jesus Christ bore my fear and accepted my twisted thinking for what it is-natural. He shares my angst and horror and fear. He also shares Your love for me, Father, and never loses sight of You.

Through Jesus' acts of mercy and sacrifice, we, too, can see You. For us, Your presence can become a place of abiding innocence, peace and joy. Jesus reconciled the darkened nature of man and the divine nature of God in one person, swallowing the darkness with love and light.

Thank You, Lord.

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