

Daily Devotional, July 1, 2021 Putting God's Kingdom First

***“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well.”
Psalms 139:13-14 (NIV)***

We see in the opening of Psalm 139 how God knows the Psalmist just like He knows us – better than we know ourselves. We can have hope in knowing that our loving Father knows what will help us. He also knows what will work against us and asks that we turn to Him and His love to bring Him glory. This concept of God knowing us and wanting us to bring Him glory rests in opposition to the “me-first” society that we now live in. Think back twenty years ago... if someone from the future came to you and described Facebook and Twitter, would you have believed them? Sure, we can understand and appreciate the technology, but did we really think that we would be that interested in seeing so many other people’s thoughts and lives?

I don’t think many of us saw social media coming. When we look to God’s Word, we see people straying from God’s precepts for life when they are more interested in what they want instead of what God wants. In the garden we see Adam and Eve make decisions in direct contrast to what God had told them, and sin thus entered the world. We see the story of Ananias and Saphira amongst the new believers in the Book of Acts and how they were bent on holding back some of their treasure from God. They were in direct violation of what they had been commanded, and they died on the spot. God knows our hearts and minds and calls us to die to ourselves and to serve Him, and not serve our own selfish desires. He knows what will help us flourish and succeed. Not in a way that promises more cars and larger houses, but in a way that expands His kingdom and brings others into the family of Christ.

We can offer God nothing more than our love and devotion. Despite Him knowing us inside and out, God still wants to use us in the greatest adventure ever undertaken. That adventure is a Creator God using a creation that He “wonderfully and fearfully” made to further His kingdom. We should be excited that God knows us and yet still wants to use us to glorify Him and His Son. He has made each of us for a time like this, to be about His business of Kingdom building for His glory. God knows why He made us the way He did, and His purposes and promises He sees through to the end.

God, I want to build Your kingdom and not my own. Your word calls us to be holy because You are holy. I confess, Jesus, most days I feel like holiness is impossible. Jesus, I confess that my pride and vanity get in the way of Your kingdom being built in my life. I think of myself more highly than I should. I pray You will grant me humility. I pray I will embrace the gifts that You have given to me and use them to bring You glory, not myself. In Your precious name I pray, Amen.