

My Story Starts relating Psalm 103:19-22

19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word. 21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will. 22 Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

and Psalm 86: 9-10

9 All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. 10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

Audacious isn't it. This ancient Jewish king declaring, even commanding that all worship his God.

To I AM from Me Not

Why is the first impulse always to do? To act? Why not to think or pray?

And so day after day I don't pray, but stay away from myself and He who made me, not first to do but be with Him.

What inner gear or fear is it that keeps me on the run from sun to sun? How do I stop and stay long enough to pray and see a day become a day and not a list of things to do?

The destination of my haste seems always just beyond the place where I am now.

Goals run out before me in the hated calendar. After the conference or the trip then I will be OK, but there is no escape from lost days past or future days to be consumed. Always not here, too busy. Not there.....yet.

The goals, the pace, the needs, the wealth of too many opportunities on the outside work their mischief in my days. What works the mischief in me? Am I a hollow man emptied (mostly) of the activities of destruction from my youth now to be destroyed by seven times as many good activities? I AM, where are you? Me not is lost.

Flourishing Dust

Poetic license gone amiss? Old King David in his bliss ordered – ordered! – angels, creatures, men to worship God then said amen! To give King David his appropriate due we note he ordered his own soul, too.

I wrote a poem a while ago to tell the stages of my woe. It spoke of lostness and fatigue of always running to meet some need. Of being filled with nothingness so much so that I could only press to do some task or test. Who was that man that I am not? Who could not find a way to pray? Instead he ran through every day.

Now I am present with I AM or rather He with me. Peace and presence are the ways that rightly now describe my days. Days for flourishing dust like me to give praise to Him who understands as only a creator can, the fragile, fleeting, flourishing dust of man.

David dared and no one spared, instruct all God's works to worship Permanence, Everlasting Love, Timeless Action, Holding firm life's transient passage with fingers of forgiveness, redemption, and compassion.

Not David I, nor an instructor of angles. Simply dust in the Kingdom. So I listen as the dust that is David sings poems of instruction to the whole created order. But when he returns to the chorus my voice rises with his. Praise the Lord; O my soul; all my inmost being praise His Holy Name. Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not.

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Reflections on the nature of the way the Kingdom advances.

1. Illustration of Peter in Mark 8:27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29 He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. 31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after

three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Peter was intuitively correct. Jesus plan was counter-intuitive.

2. Like Peter **I functioned out of my temperament and talent looking for the right answer.**
3. **Psa. 147: 10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner; 11 but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.**
4. Great commissions, there are two. The commonly known external mission into the world. Matt. 28:18-20
5. The second is God's call to the internal commission of holiness or Christ like character. Gal. 5:22ff.
6. My contention is that some, especially in western cultures can and do focus on the external commission to the neglect of the internal commission. This causes their missiological praxis to be biased toward a human dependent (work harder) analytical or problem solving center. Those in western cultural contexts who ignore the external commission and over focus on the internal commission often become self-absorbed and lose or never gain any sense that God's mission is global.