

My friend was gone so suddenly. As I considered his life in the vacuum of that loss, I realized that he was someone who just kept growing in Goodness. His name was Adam, a name related to the land (dust) from which we are all created<sup>1</sup>. His life was well lived and he was well loved. He left a loving wife and family that he loved so much in return and to whom he passed on his own incredibly deep faith.

In the midst of the tremendous sadness I experienced due to the loss of such a great friend, I found a certain joy in weaving a tribute for him. Even so I could not fully capture the depth and breadth of his character. He was complex in his interest in so many things, but simple in his devotion to Truth and Goodness.

I do not subscribe to the idea that God took Adam; rather he was a casualty of the Great War that is being waged on this corrupted world<sup>2</sup>. It is a war too complex for us to understand, except that Jesus indicated in the parable of the tares<sup>3</sup> that to rip out the evil could ruin the entire fabric of the universe. So we can only understand that God is with us, as He was with His own Son, especially in times of great loss.

Adam studied the Scriptures very diligently not just to know them, but to know God. He grew larger every day as he tried to wrap his arms all of the way around God. In this he challenges us all.

He grew larger in his spirit as he walked, absorbing the Good around him and repelling the Evil. The closer he walked with God, the more He rubbed off on him, and the deeper the connection became between them. He began to blend into the matrix of God in an ever-increasing glory<sup>4</sup>. He showed me that there is no actual limit to spirituality, though of course we can never achieve perfection<sup>5</sup>.

I thought of my friend in another, though similar, way. He reminded me of an elderly man I once saw gathering bits and pieces of paper and metal foil and adding them to an ever-growing ball. Sometimes he picked up pieces that were just trash and discarded them. Each piece he kept, though, contributed in some way to the overall story that he wanted to portray, and he was eager to tell about his collection. Each part of it caused his heart to soar with emotion and exhilaration.

His heart was somewhat like a sponge, soaking up the Goodness. It was a slow growth process, as the Goodness seeped in by a sort of osmosis. Then he would release it a bit a time back to the world when and where it was needed. He had plunged into the great Pool of God and when he emerged, he dripped onto those around him. Goodness oozed out from him whenever those who were in need touched him.

Thus Adam left traces of this Great Good wherever he went. He reminded me of legends that I had heard of those who went around sowing seeds so that fruit would abound. Perhaps the parable of the sower<sup>6</sup> relates to that type of missionary, and describes someone (like Christ) who is trying to change the world.

What would be the effect of such a project that was dedicated to sowing the seeds of True Love? The parable of the mustard seed<sup>7</sup> shows that the kingdom of heaven can keep growing and growing from the effect of a little love and goodness. It is like the powerful effect of even a little yeast<sup>8</sup> when making bread. We are all beneficiaries of this planting – we are all able to go around collecting the fruit, squeezing the juice, and of course, planting its seeds to increase the harvest many times<sup>9</sup>.

Why not try to fill the world with Good? Think about being surrounded by Love, being immersed in it! But there are those who “pull the plug” and watch it drain away. God is a source of continual and unfailing love – a shower of blessings! Who would not want to be underneath such a waterfall? We should be magnifying the Good to help it to reach everyone. We know that we can be “filled to the measure of all the fullness of God<sup>10</sup>.”

My friend is gone, but I know that because he loved the Good so much, he will be completely happy in heaven. Thinking of this, I found it easier to let him go. He had truly absorbed all of God that he could. And his life showed it, as he showered love to all of those who were near him.

1. Genesis 2:7; a tribute to my friend Lanny Holt (the name Lanny is derived from the word “land”)

2. 2 Peter 1:4
3. Matthew 13:24ff
4. see 2 Corinthians 3:18, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."
5. Romans 3:23
6. Matthew 13:1ff
7. Matthew 13:31ff
8. 1 Corinthians 5:6
9. Matthew 13:23
10. see Ephesians 3:19 "... and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

© Copyright 2015, Heard Lowry