

Whenever I visited my teacher friend, I would notice that she had a mark of paint on her hands and clothes. She would fuss about this, wanting to keep clean, but never quite being able to accomplish this. I told her that she bore the mark of an artist – she always had paint on her because she was an artist 100% of the time.

I thought that if we were truly following Christ with all of our hearts, we should have some type of mark that exhibits our dedication. He had the marks of the nails in his hands<sup>1</sup>, and many of my fellow ministers had similar marks from their troubles and persecutions<sup>2</sup>.

God is an artist as well, and I see His splashes of color on the flowers, birds, and even rocks that fill His creation. It is as though, like my friend, He has dribbled paint all over. And He doesn't seem a bit bothered by it. It's just His nature.

I believe that God loved being in the midst of His creation<sup>3</sup>, actually feeling things as His created people did. He walked in the cool of the day in the Garden of Eden<sup>4</sup>, and later He came to be a part of His people<sup>5</sup>. He ended up being buried in it, at least for a time. But when He worked in His ministry, you could see that He admired the creation<sup>6</sup> and used it to teach lessons about the Great Truth.

I remembered that a mother of one of the teacher's students said to her, "Not a day goes by that your name is not mentioned". The teacher taught both love and knowledge, and gave them a daily feeding of them both. She was a social artist as well, "painting" relationships as a ministering spirit<sup>7</sup>. Her students could not wait for her classes to begin, for they were not just about learning – but about doing and expressing themselves. They were always ready to make art!

I was with Christ the Great Teacher daily, and after being with Him the after-effects kept our team buoyed up and inspired. We came to realize our need for that daily bread<sup>8</sup>. We all have the need, but we resist it – we must revert to being like children<sup>9</sup> to understand it. Both of the teachers I'm talking about had the joy of creation, and I know a lot more about what God is like because of them.

The teacher who was an artist was indeed a craftsman at God's side<sup>10</sup>. And we must have our daily bread to enable us to perform our daily chores – like taking up our cross daily<sup>11</sup>.

1. John 20:25; "So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.""
2. 2 Corinthians 12:12; "I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles."  
Galatians 6:17; "From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus."
3. Thanks to Mary Beth Kerce: "Think of the great joy that Christ must have had in coming to be a part of His creation."
4. Genesis 3:8; Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
5. John 1:14a; The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
6. "He enjoyed what He saw in nature, in His Father's creation, and we find Him at times just sitting and admiring the beauty of the sea and the changing colors in the sky, the flowers in the field, the animals in nature. It may seem like a small thing, but just for the Gospel writers to mention it shows it impressed them and was significant. Alone, Joseph Girzone
7. see Hebrews 1:14; Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?
8. Luke 11:3; "Give us each day our daily bread."
9. Matthew 18:3; "And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."
10. Proverbs 8:30; "Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him..." NKJV

11. Luke 9:23, "Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

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