

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him?*

*Psalms 8:4*

Man is quite an incredible creation, yet compared to the stature of God he is somewhat insignificant. In Psalms 139:17, we read, "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" And in Isaiah 55:9, we read, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God obviously thinks that we are worth something, though, for we are created in His image. And we know that Christ died for us so that we might live eternally in the presence of God in heaven. But our righteousness is insignificant compared to God, but we have because of His love.

We might ask the question, "Does God really need us for his existence?" We read in Psalms 50:8-13:

*I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. **I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens**, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. **Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?***

We must realize that if God had a need we could not fulfill it. He does not need us in the sense that we as humans need air, water, and food.

Many Bible characters have realized their relative insignificance. In Exodus 3:11, Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" Similarly, in 1 Samuel 18:18, David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?" And in 2 Samuel 7:18, David sat before the LORD and asked, "Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?"

The common dog was a popular symbol for insignificance in the Bible. In 1 Samuel 17:43, Goliath said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" Here Goliath was insulted by the young man David coming to fight him, and he tried to make David feel even worse by referring to him as a stick, rather than a real weapon. Then in 1 Samuel 24:14, David minimizes his importance to Saul by saying, "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?" Here David felt significant only through God and His plan, as he refused to try to kill the Lord's anointed. Jonathon's son Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:8) and the soon-to-be Aramean king Hazael (2 Kings 8:13) used similar phrases to underline their own low self-esteem.

The real question is, "What happens when an infinite God interacts with insignificant man?" Remember the question about what happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object? Well, how about what happens when an insignificant object meets one that is infinite? This is the way it is between ourselves and God. The interesting thing is that the outcome is finite.

Gideon is a good example of someone that God used who was pretty low on the heroic scale. He had to ask God several times to prove to him that he would be victorious. David had a greater faith than Gideon in the outcome of his battle with Goliath, but he knew that if he won it would be because of the power of God working in him. Remember from the passage quoted above that the situation looked ridiculous; the young boy David running out to meet the nine-foot giant Goliath. Goliath scorned him, but David had the last say.

The amazing thing is that God pays much attention to us at all. But He does so because He loves us so much. And he can perform wonderful things through each of us if we will let Him. In Matthew 7:3ff, Jesus compares a speck that is in someone's eye to a beam that might be in our own. Is a speck always insignificant? How about if the speck is in your eye? God can make us a speck in Satan's eye that causes him great problems. We must let Him use us for whatever purpose He has for us, and never feel useless in his service. We must not feel too small to accept God's challenge.

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