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Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2016 12:59 AM
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Subject: One Nation Under God Devotional - October 22

ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional

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God Responds to Humility

This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word. But whoever sacrifices a bull is like one who kills a man, and whoever offers a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; whoever makes a grain offering is like one who presents pig's blood, and whoever burns memorial incense, like one who worships an idol. They have chosen their own ways, and their souls delight in their abominations; so I also will choose harsh treatment for them and will bring upon them what they dread. For when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, no one listened. They did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me." Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word: "Your brothers who hate you, and exclude you because of my name, have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy!' Yet they will be put to shame. Hear that uproar from the city, hear that noise from the temple! It is the sound of the LORD repaying his enemies all they deserve. . . "

Isaiah 66:1-6 (NIV)

Reflection

In the movie "Cast Away," Tom Hanks, after days of excruciating effort, finally starts the life-saving fire that he needed. In his celebration he proclaims, "I have created fire!" As I watch that movie, I can relate to the satisfaction that comes from accomplishing the seemingly impossible. Not only can I relate, there is something within me that desires to experience that feeling of accomplishment again. At the same time, there is another emotion that I don't want to experience anymore: The feeling of worthlessness that weighs on me when someone I respect, like my Father, repeatedly rebuffs my efforts to please and who never utters the sentence, "Good job son." I can hear my exasperated soul saying, "What do I need to do to please you?" The reality is, we want to accomplish great things and please the one we respect most...God.

In this passage, God looks at those who are proud of the house they built for Him, those who bring the animal to sacrifice and incense to burn and says, "I am NOT pleased." Which begs the question, what pleases and displeases God?

This passage designates what displeases God. God is displeased when we seek to take credit for something God has provided. The truth is, there is nothing that is of or from the Kingdom of God that WE have provided for. For everything is created by and for Christ Jesus. Humbleness is recognizing that we accomplish nothing of value without Him. For Christ has Supremacy over

Challenge

True worship can only come from a humble heart. Humility is the understanding that we have nothing to offer God.

For Discussion

Have you ever felt that God owes you for your efforts?

What does it take for you to truly surrender ALL of your life to Him?



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everything visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities (1 Corinthians 1). What pleases God isn't what we "think" we have created, rather how we walk in and participate in His purposes and His creations, in a manner that is consistent with His intentions. A humble heart understands that we have nothing to offer God, it is reveling and walking in what He has given to us. God responds to a humble heart, that fears Him, not a proud man who competes to win His favor.

Prayer

Dear Lord, I have been guilty of taking credit for so many things that YOU have done. I have even used these things as leverage to provide for the building of my own kingdom. Forgive me Lord and break my heart, so that I may be truly humble before you. Amen.

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