

dec 6, 2022

a life of being special

"but you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 pet 2:9

i was going through some old papers today, trying to decide what i should keep and what i could toss. we accumulate so much. some get buried in things while others let things get buried in them. sometime good things and sometimes bad things. this item was a good thing and even while i allowed it to get buried in me, i also decided to keep it as a reminder.

it was just a little scribbled card from an old friend ... a lady i used to work for years ago and have retained among my cherished friends. i don't remember how i received the little card. i only know the message it contained. it said, "because you are special to me."

i don't feel i am special in any way but here was someone saying i was special ... to them, at least.

it got me to thinking, "what does it take to be special?" does it mean to excel above others and shine so much they can't help but recognize your value. i know that's what the world would consider to be special; someone unique, talented and set apart, accomplishing what others never could.

but is that what makes someone special in God's eyes?  
i think not. i think of the tax collector who came  
before God, beating his breast and pleading, "be  
merciful to me a sinner." why? because he knew the  
dark recesses of his sinful nature, hidden perhaps from  
all but God. and because he came not in pride but a  
humble, repenting spirit, he was heard by God and went  
away released. he went away "special" in God's eyes.

so that may be what it takes to be special to God, but  
what does it take to be special in the eyes of someone  
else. could it be to live a life that Jesus lived as a  
pattern for us to follow. a pattern that says your  
needs are predominate over My needs. a pattern that  
demonstrates the essence of that to the fullest by  
laying down His life to prove it.

the bible says, "greater love has no one than this,  
than to lay down one's life for his friends." john  
15:13 one does not need to physically die to lay down  
their life for another. they just need to subjugate  
their desires to another's.

our Lord Jesus said it so well. "most assuredly, I say  
to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground  
and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces  
much grain." john 12:24 unless one dies to our "self"  
nature, they will only be special in their own eyes.

perhaps the Godly love of a mother comes closest to  
demonstrating this. your needs are greater than my  
needs. your hurts are greater than my hurts. i choose  
to subjugate my wants to yours. that subjugation, that  
dying can only be done through love, and love is what

it's all about.

be special to someone else and in so doing you will be special to God Himself. you will be dressing in righteousness, a wedding gown beautiful and acceptable for His only son, Jesus.