

jul 21

familiar friday - leaving flowers in your stead

"the flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." song of sol 2:12

i don't know about you, but i can't count the number of times i felt i have failed God. felt inadequate in a situation or that someone else could have done such a better job.

well, that may be true. but God has made us all to be what we are and He doesn't make mistakes. He is the potter. we are only the clay. how does that song go?

have Thine own way, Lord,  
have Thine own way;  
Thou art the Potter,  
i am the clay.  
mold me and make me  
after Thy will,  
while I am waiting,  
yielded and still.

yielded and still. "be still and know that I am God."  
psa 46:10 the enemy will try to use those feelings of failure and inadequacies against us. i think we should regard them as humility as long as we are always giving our best and hoping to do better. "a broken and a contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise."  
psa 51:17

let me tell you another one of my little stories.

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the cracked pot

a water bearer in india had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck. one of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

at the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. for a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. but the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

after two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "i am ashamed of myself, and i want to apologize to you. i have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

the bearer said to the pot, "did you notice that there

were flowers on your side of the path but not on the other pot's side? that's because i have always known about your flaw, and i planted flower seeds on your side of the path. every day while we walk back, you've watered them. for two years, i have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

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so i ask, "are you willing to be a leaky pot if it serves our Lord's purposes"? it may not get you the glory but it may get you accepted. "for who has known the mind of the Lord? or who has become His counselor? rom 11:34 i love what He says in job. "where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? tell Me, if you have understanding." job 38:4

God has used imperfect people throughout the bible to demonstrate His purposes and His will. in so doing He is revealing His nature to us; His essence. the potter is molding the clay for His purpose.

no, we don't yet have full understanding. now we see through that glass darkly. we catch glimpses of the glory that awaits us, but only if we are looking. i heard a preacher once say something to this effect: "we live life going forward, but we only understand looking back".

if we will trust Him through thick and thin, through times of rain and drought, in good times and in bad, He may allow us to also glimpse what treasures we leave in

our stead; flowers along the way for Him to enjoy.

"we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." rom 8:28

He remembers that we are but dust. but we have the breath of God in us and that is what equips all. "i can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." phil 4:13 we will make it because He will enable us to. but the credit, the glory - that all goes to God.