God Is So Beautiful

10/2/16

Ecclesiastes 3:11 Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.

This is a powerful verse to me: It points to our limited nature as humans. God has placed within our hearts all of eternity, the ability to draw upon all of God’s power, and love, and experience all of God’s good. But because of the nature of our human journey and the choices we make along the way, we are incapable of seeing, hearing, and experiencing all the good that God has planned and invites us to participate in.

[Sing: Everything Is Beautiful]

Everything is beautiful in its own way, so the song tells us. Yet there are none so blind as those who will not see. When I was a youngster a friend and I went out to get some ice cream. The girl who served us was overweight, but she was really pretty and had a wonderful smile that just brightened the place.

When we left I commented on how attractive I thought the girl was. He made some derogatory comment about her weight. I made a mental note about that … and realized that we all don’t see the same thing when we look at something or someone.

For many years that bothered me. Why don’t we all see the same thing? Then as I grew into manhood God whispered into my ear and heart the idea of diversity, freewill, and that each of us chooses our own path. Yes, we are all children of our one God, but we are born into different geo-socio-economic situations, which influence our early decisions and our initial attitudes.

And despite all the nurture vs. nature arguments, each of us still has a choice in who we become. When we take hold of the hand of Christ, there is no better ally as we walk this earth. Ultimately, we alone choose whether we are going to be appreciative and grateful or not. We choose to see the beauty or the repugnance of a person or circumstance.

Some people are pieces of coal and some are diamonds; some reflect the light of God back into Creation and others do not. When God speaks to our ‘coal’ nature we can make the choice to apply enough effort and accept God’s Grace so that we are transformed into diamonds. It takes God’s Presence in our minds and hearts and our willingness to allow that Presence to influence us.

When we maintain a connection with God I think we begin to see God in all of Creation’s diversity. I saw God smiling at me in the face of the girl who served us ice cream, and in many faces since then, but I cannot always see God in every face; that is one of my life challenges – to see the Christ in all eyes that I encounter.

What I need to realize is that all of us are diamonds or diamonds in the making. Each of us have our own journey, our own lessons, our own pressures that are there to help us transform into Light refracting diamonds of God.

The more of God’s Light we allow in, the more we see God, the source of all Light and Love, everywhere. And we realize that just as God creates diversity, God’s Presence and Beauty appear in diverse ways. The painters and Photographic artist can capture this beauty. Through the eyes of a photographer even an old man, toothless and grinning, becomes a beautiful work of art. God’s beauty is seen as people draw upon their inner reserves to accomplish the astounding things that God has placed upon their hearts.

One of the most wonderful ways that beauty expresses is through service to others. Mary and I watched the movie “Sully” over the weekend, and there must have been four or five times when I teared up as I watched the power and beauty of people giving all they could to help each other in that time of trial.

Many of us love the beauty of Nature: yes, our magnificent sunsets and majestic vistas around the world. But I also find beauty in the texture of a pine tree’s bark and the half eaten apples that have fallen off a tree to serve as food for the birds and insects. There is beauty in Creation if we will allow it to touch our hearts.

There is beauty in still, placid, glass-like lakes and ponds, like the lake where we had our church service last week. But there is also beauty in the deep and dark oceans and the bubbling streams.

There is beauty in the sympathy and compassion that someone gives to another in need. To the eastern spiritual mindset, a yogi is someone who seeks union with God. They find beauty in God as ever more Joy. To us Westerners, we also find the beauty of God as Joy.

To the spiritual heart God is the same: Joy, Bliss, Light, Love, Peace, and much more. God is so beautiful, and that infinite beauty awaits our recognition and acknowledgment as we attune our hearts and minds to the diversity that God presents to us.

When we stop accepting the world’s values and stop judging and comparing, we see more of God’s beauty everywhere, in everything, in everyone, including ourselves. There is beauty in the wholeness and completion of God’s Creation, yet there is an ever ongoing ‘moreness’. There is beauty in each of us individually and collectively, and our uniqueness adds to the mix of ‘all that is’.

While in these bodies we may never see the full scope of God’s works, as our Bible verse suggests, but we can be open and expectant to more than we can see right now. As our awareness of God grows, Joy and Good explode in our hearts, pressed down and running over. We feel a Holy Thanksgiving surround us, and we bow at the feet of our Divine One in humility and awe.

Let us pray….

[Sing: O God Beautiful]