

Thursday, May 28, 2020

What are human beings that you are mindful of them? -Pastor Hank French

*O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens....
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor (Psalms 8:1, 3-5).*

There is comfort in this Psalm, comfort and encouragement. I doubt if there are many people who have looked into the heavens, gazed at the moon and the stars and not felt somewhat insignificant in the presence of such grandeur.

As I wrote in a previous devotion, several years ago I climbed Mt. Sinai—the mountain of God—in the dark to see the sunrise from the summit. It was magnificent, awe inspiring, humbling. As the sun rose over the surrounding mountains and the desert wilderness it was impossible not to feel drawn into an unfathomable mystery—the mystery of God, the mystery of creation, the mystery of human life. “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?”

In the face of the grandeur and mystery of creation and its creator, it is not uncommon to feel small. And yet the Hebrew poet who wrote Psalm 8 draws a different conclusion. “Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.” Have you thought of yourself as “a little lower than God” and as crowned “with glory and honor?”

Remember, in a devotion last week, I wrote about God’s glory and defined God’s glory as “the brilliant, radiant beauty, majesty, holiness and love of God.” It is staggering to think that God has crowned humankind with glory—glory just a little lower than God’s glory!

It reminds me of the story of creation in Genesis 1: Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:26-27).

Psalm 8 and Genesis 1 give an ennobling picture of humankind. Its something to think about.

Prayer: Holy God, you have ennobled us; lead us to live nobly. Amen.