

September 26, 2021

I Am Not Ashamed



This is Me

The Greatest Showman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjxugyZCfuw>

Psalms 139:14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Psalms 139:14

Kissing Humanity

God took an inventory
Of all the souls that have inhabited earth,
And noted something was peculiar.
It seems that God did not have one of me.
In all of creation, I could not be found.
So, God took some dust and dewdrops,
Stirred up some mud and clay,
Captured the essence of a rainbow,
Mixed with an ample amount of starlight and wonder.
Then put the concoction on a potter's wheel
And shaped it into.... well, me.
Given to divine imagination,
The stuff that dreams are made of.
My Creator blew into me
The same breath that
Brought the universe into existence,
The sacred winds of life.
In all of God's creation
I am unique.
One of a kind.
No two alike.
A snowflake dancing in a winter storm.
There truly is no other like me,
God, patiently and attentively,
Painted this pot with love
Dressed it in grace,

And gave me life.

I am not shaped for the purpose of others.

I am shaped for the purpose of God.

Customized to serve the souls around me.

Where some see flaws,

God sees a door into someone else's soul,

A window of light into dark places.

I am whimsy

Conceived in the heart of the Creator

Born to serve and prosper,

And through me,

God can kiss humanity.

You are too tall. Too fat. Too short. Too skinny. Too weak. Too ugly. Too strong. Too cute. Too smart. Too empathetic. Too dumb. Too distant. Too allergic. Too cold. Too healthy. Too hot. Too ambitious. Too intellectual. Too lazy. Too driven. Too melancholy. Too hateful. Too loving. Too Forgiving. Too patient. Too aggressive. Too flighty. Too colorful. Too drab. Too foolish. Too transparent. Too greedy. Too selfish. Too tacky. Too ungrateful. Too mindful. Too detailed. Too strict. Too focused. Too.... Too... Too.... Too lacking in all the graces and qualities that are needed to make a decent human being.

I have heard all of these phrases at some point in my life as people tried to let me know why I am such a failure in their eyes. People seem to want to figure out what is wrong with other people rather than what is right about them. We meet many individuals in life who are more interested in pushing us down than lifting us. Some people want to use us as stepping stones on their way to what they perceive as success. This actually makes sense when we realize that their measure of success is a big house, expensive car, fast boat, and money far beyond their needs. They think it is crucial that we use those same values to validate our lives in the same way. They see us as unsuccessful because we have a medium-sized house, drive an inexpensive car, don't own a boat or a pool, and often run out of money before we run out of month.

I had the Anterior Cruciate Ligament replaced in my left knee three times within a year and a half. It was the 90s, and I was teaching and working in theatre at the time. The doctors informed me that my theatre career was over and that I would have to find a way to make a new living. I was working with an

employment agency in Fort Worth. Even though I told them that I was not interested in a financial position (I am not the sharpest pencil in the box when it comes to major financial matters), they sent me to interview with a large financial firm in Dallas.

When I arrived, an attractive young lady escorted me into a large, impressive office, and the firm's president greeted me from behind his massive mahogany desk. He reached over and shook my hand, then asked me to take a seat in a leather chair that could have held three of me. The view from this office on the 21st floor of a skyscraper was overwhelming. This guy certainly had it all. He held up my resume' and said, "Mr. Wellborn, you have a very impressive resume,' and I am prepared to offer you a job with this firm making far more money than you ever have. We need creative thinkers like yourself."

Well, I was more than overwhelmed. I had no financial background and had just spent twenty years in theatre. My thought was that this guy must be a little off his rocker if he wanted to offer me a job. What could I possibly have to help him grow his company? What unique thing did he see in me that impressed him?

"Sir," I told him, "I am a little confused. I don't have a financial background, and I only came to this interview because the agency sent me."

"Mr. Wellborn," he said. "Do not sell yourself short. Your resume and work ethic show me that you have everything needed for you to be a great manager with our firm. Learning the financial side is just details. Nothing that you can't handle."

“Well, I appreciate that, sir, but I still feel a catch coming on,” I replied, hoping not to offend him.

“Well, Mr. Wellborn, I do have a concern. A very big concern. I am hoping that you can alleviate that concern for me. You have spent the last twenty years doing theatre work, and you were very successful at it both as a professional and as a teacher. Are you ready to put your toys away, put on your adult pants and get a real life and a real job? Are you ready to quit playing games and get with a real program that will earn you a great deal of money? Are you through wasting your life on frivolities and whimsy? Are you through playing games?”

Well, that stung a bit. I had worked very hard to get where I was, harder than most financial managers. I had a master’s degree in theatre, an impeccable resume’ and a long list of both character and professional references. And this man, who probably only attended the theatre, ballet, concert, or other live performances when his wife demanded that he take her, was judging the quality and practicality of my life’s work. I don’t mean to judge him, but most people that have never spent a hundred hours straight to meet an opening without sleep or food can hardly begin to understand the hard life of being in the theatre. It’s not a luxurious or frivolous environment. It’s extremely hard work, often done in deplorable conditions, and requires more dedication than most careers.

I stood up from my chair, reached across the desk and shook the man’s hand, and said, “I appreciate your time, sir, but I don’t believe that this is the right position meant for me. God bless you, and please have a great day.” I know what he was thinking as I left his office, “There goes a starving artist. I gave him

a chance to improve his lot in life, and he threw it away.” He never really knew how much I loved my work and how hard it was for me to put myself out there looking for a different opportunity.

For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body;

all the days ordained for me were written in your book

before one of them came to be.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

God is not in the business of making junk. He doesn’t make second-hand, plastic molded, as seen on TV, three easy payments, junk. Each and every one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made. Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise. We are

crafted with the greatest of care by the Master Craftsman, the Creator of all that is. And when God is finished molding us, we are put to work, not set on a shelf for display. God gives us purpose and the tools to accomplish that purpose.

And one of the greatest tools that God gives us is our... imagination, our ability to see things beyond the limits of our eyes, to hear things beyond the limits of our ears, to smell things not only through the essence of reality, but also through our memories, to embrace the different tastes of a multitude of cultures and flavors, and to touch not only the earth, but the sky as well.

We can dream of the moon and stars and that which is beyond the moon and stars. Through our imaginations, we can step out beyond the known laws of the universe and bend creation to our will within our minds. We are the children of God. We are the greatest of all of God's creations.

When we talk about being made in the image of God, we should understand that the Great Creator made us all to be creators as well. Because of God's passion for us, we are able to create music, dance, and art that comes out of that place of whimsical essence that comes from the heart and mind of God.

Never allow anyone to take that from you or tell you that you are not adequate. We are perfect, just the way God made us. When we come to fully realize that, we also recognize that everyone around us is created in that same manner, that each and every one of us is uniquely crafted. And God did not craft us to sit in judgment over any other part of God's creation, much less each other. To do so is to reject the essence of the divine uniqueness embedded in our fellow

human beings. We are not better. We are not worse. We are not superior. We are not inferior. We are just as we are supposed to be to fit into the divine plan of a gracious God.

I am not ashamed of who I am. A creation of God. Perfect in God's wisdom and eyes. Worthy enough in God's eyes that God would send His son to die for me. There is no human countenance that comes close to that. My value is not in the plans or thoughts of man but in the purpose of God.

We live in gratitude that God loves us so much that God only made one of each and then broke the molds. It is through that same love that God refused to let us wallow in our sinful natures and sent His Son to rescue us and return us to righteousness. Acknowledge your divine heritage and let God show you how you fit your uniqueness into God's plan. This world does not define you because this world is of no consequence. Your relationship with your Creator defines you. Let no person claim otherwise.

Allow me to remind you of this before we close. You are strong. You are beautiful. You are blessed. You are intelligent. You are imaginative. You are creative. You are thoughtful. You are brave. You are precious. You are merciful. You are gracious. You are wise. You are spiritual. You are generous. You are loved. You are my family. You are made in the perfect image of God.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

AMEN

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