

10/12/96

Prayer

Introduction:--A Sad Story with a happy ending.

- A. Frank and Ernest. Adam on one side of fence Eve on the other
- B. Opening Scenario of the world. Genesis 1
 - 1. "He saw that it was good."
 - 2. "He saw that it was VERY good."
- C. THIS WAS My Father's World
 - 1. Picturesque, Peaceful, Pure.
 - 2. What happened?

#1 My Father's World

- A. Children creators in a sandbox world.
- B. My Father's World is like that Sandbox.
 - 1. His Strange imagination: Elephants, Kangaroos, Armadillos, Penguins, Platypus,
 - 2. His Artistic imagination: Pink Flamingos, Parrots, Rainbow Trout
 - 3. His beautiful imagination: Flowers, Fall leaves, Aurora Borealis, Sunrises and Sunsets.
- C. Psalm 50:10=11
 - 1. "For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine." (RSV)
 - 2. The song is right! "This is my Father's world! and to my listening ears all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres."
- D. Intelligent Life-Forms
 - 1. People, Humans, more than natural instincts, natural habits.
 - 2. Free wills, imaginations, consciences.
 - 3. Expecting acceptance and cooperation.
 - 4. Risking rejection, rebellion
- E. Sand-Castle in a sandbox, rains came, floods came, wind blew . . .
 - 1. Romans 1:19-32 therefore, v. 18
 - 2. The sand-castle was ruined.

#2 My Father's Tears

- A. It's not enough
 - 1. More than ownership--cattle on the 1000 hills. "I'll make more!"
 - 2. More than Authority--Creation
 - 3. God wanted more, expected more, so He lost more
- B. Unlike a Sand-Castle, WE left willingly and deliberately.
 - 1. Parents talking about their children in tears.
 - 2. An elder resigned in tears over 3 then 4 unfaithful children
- C. My Father's tears--Genesis 6:6
 - Genesis 6:6--The Lord, sorry that He had made man, "grieved"
- D. My Lord's tears--Matthew 23:37
 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . but you were not willing."
- E. My Spirit's tears--Ephesians 4:30
 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (RSV)

#3 My Father's Solution

- A. Destroying large buildings in order to start over again.
- B. Genesis 10--Destroying the world to start over.
 - 1. Sin was too great a problem for water to solve
 - 2. Sin can only be washed away by blood.
- C. God was prepared with a backup plan
 - 1. Ephesians 1:3-5--"... just as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world"
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:18-20--"He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world..."
- D. God was willing to love us even if we did not love HIM.
 - 1. We could have stayed with Him from the start.
 - 2. He was prepared if we didn't.
- E. What if your spouse was unfaithful?
 - 1. Are you prepared to take her/him back?
 - 2. Most would just write them off.
 - 3. BUT GOD--WOULD take her back.
 - a. He DID take her back. **SHE was US**
 - b. **We were unfaithful, we committed adultery, we cheated on God and HE TOOK US BACK!**
- F. When you get a chance read the book of HOSEA
- G. My Father's World is a world of Forgiveness, 2nd Chances.
 - 1. It is beautiful not because of the pretty animals and flowers
 - 2. It is beautiful because He loved us when we loved Him.
 - 3. It is beautiful because He loved us even when we didn't love Him.

Will YOU be a part of My Father's World?