

Tuesday's Touch #62

...from Pastor Ed ...March 30, 2010

Collisions of Glory

*Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed. Psalm 85:10
For He has made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us. 2 Corinthians 5:*

In the week of our Savior's passion we are presented with a series of events, each of which precipitates a collision of opposing factors. On the Mount of Olives we see the multitudes proclaiming Jesus the messianic King, as they envision the liberation of Jerusalem from Roman occupation, and the final exaltation of earthly Israel to world dominion. Yet, even as the celebration is reaching a crescendo, Jesus stops and weeps over Jerusalem, pronouncing its *utter destruction*. Expectation and reality come crashing together, and in a few days the crowd will be crying out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

With consuming zeal Jesus responds to the crass commercialization of His Father's House, and deep-seated spiritual passion careens head-on into the unbridled quest for material gain. As He teaches and heals in the temple and in the streets, the notoriety and admiration of the people crashes hard against the jealous, ambitious, self-preserving spirit of the religious leaders. While He heals, they set their hearts to destroy.

But it is from the garden to the cross that the cataclysmic collision of infinite realities unfolds. In Gethsemane, the holy Son of God, who has from all eternity dwelt in the blazing glory of the consuming love of unbroken Trinity, is now faced with *becoming* sin. This not only is infinitely repulsive to His own holiness, but it means that the eternally beloved of the Father must now become the object of the Father's all-consuming vengeance and wrath. His perfect mortal frame is nearly crushed beneath the horror of this *contradiction of sinners against himself*; the unspeakable stress bursts the capillaries of His sweat glands and blood pours forth. But there He wins the victory. As He is heard by the Father, and strengthened by holy angels, He sets his face like a flint, and surrenders Himself as an unconditional sacrifice of love to the glory of the Father, and the eternal joy of His bride.

Being the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form, the expressed image of the invisible God, the Son has already greatly glorified the Father in His life. But it is in His death that the fullest and most unimaginable revelation of God's glory is revealed. At Calvary, the full essence of His holy attributes converges upon the head of the sacrificial Lamb. As darkness covers the scene, there is a violent collision of *mercy and*

truth, righteousness and peace, holiness and love, justice and forgiveness... And in the aftermath, through the shadows of the receding darkness, comes forth the Kiss of eternal reconciliation. He has by one sacrifice, forever, sanctified a people, a bride, to the unending glory of the Father. By His resurrection the work is sealed, and death is abolished for those who would believe.

No other event could possibly be imagined that would so fully and simultaneously reveal infinite Holiness, with its consuming wrath against sin, and infinite Love, with its unfathomable sacrifice for the reconciliation of sinners. Have you looked to the cross and considered that your sin nailed Him there? If not, look! And looking, believe! For, because of Calvary, God now *justly* and freely justifies the *ungodly* who turn to Him in faith.

*Why should these hand's have borne the steel,
That nailed my sentence to the tree?
Why should these feet have walked through hell
And trampled down its gates for me?*

*Why should this brow be pierced by thorns,
The diadem of my reproach?
Why should this precious side be torn
To let the cleansing fountain flow?*

*Why should my wrath on Him be poured
That I, the guilty, might go free?
Behold! The temple veil is torn,
That I might enter near to Thee.*

*Beyond the pen of mortal poets,
Beyond angelic strains above-
Amazing grace brought down from heaven,
That quenched my hell and won my love.*

*Should hell, itself, deserve your mercies,
Or wicked lips your holy kiss,
Then might I merit heaven's glories,
And deserve love such as this.*

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*Lamb for Sinners Slain,
In the unbounded love of Calvary we shall praise Thee forever.
Amen*