

I'm reading a book entitled The Invisible Woman: When Only God Sees by Nicole Johnson. In it, she compares the service of a mom to the building of the great cathedrals over six hundred years ago.

"One particularly moving story told of a very prominent man who went to visit a cathedral that was being built. He stopped to watch one of the workers, perhaps a monk. He saw the worker carving a tiny bird into the inside of a beam that would eventually be covered over by the stone roof. The man asked the worker why he was spending so much time and giving so much attention to something that no one would ever see. The builder never looked up. He never stopped carving as he replied, "Because God sees." Years later, Martin Luther urged ordinary people – not just the clergy – to find the same perspective. He told the world that it was not the nature of work that made it holy. Milking a cow was no less holy than giving an offering. Luther believed that a housewife had as great a calling as a high priest, and that both should perform his or her work as though God alone were watching. Holiness comes from God and from the heart of the person doing the work, not from the work itself. Someone must have been listening to Luther, because now, centuries later, we read of exquisitely carved statues hidden behind walls, visible only by reaching in with a mirror through holes in the plaster. It seems that medieval artists walled up some of their best work because they believed God himself saw it, and they left it for God's eyes only." (Johnson, p. 40-42)

In addition, Johnson points out that "*Many of these cathedrals took over a hundred years to complete. One hundred years was far more than one working man's entire lifetime, which meant that many builders devoted their whole lives to a work they would never see finished.*" (Johnson, p. 38) "But unlike earlier monks, who were preoccupied with intellectual life, *these monks regarded manual work as a form of prayer.* In other words, they decided it might actually be holy to get their hands dirty for God. They prayed with their tools and skills." (Johnson, p. 39)

You might think that I believe you have to work your way to get into heaven. I do not! James Torrance wrote, "There is only one offering which is truly acceptable to God, and it is not ours." That acceptable offering is Jesus' sacrifice on the cross which is His gift to us. But James 2:14-17 says, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has not deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

So, what will be our response to the gift of Jesus' sacrifice? I hope we decide to worship God with our whole life by loving Him and loving people. Let's choose to get our hands dirty for God!

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) One way to show love is to show my obedience. “If you obey me, you will obey what I command.” John 14:15 How does this apply to me?

How has my thinking of what worship means changed?

In what areas of my life is God calling me to worship Him?

In what areas of my city is God calling me to worship Him?

In what areas of my county is God calling me to worship Him?

In what areas of my country is God calling me to worship Him?

Where in the world is God calling me to worship Him?

Where can I get my hands dirty?

Is there a need that I see that I have been refusing to meet?

Additional Verses: Matthew 21:43, Mark 1:15, 4:30-32, Romans 4:17, John 4, James 2:14-17

This month’s memory verse: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3

REMINDERS: **please note that 3rd:culture is moved to the 8th for this month!**

5.8 – 3rd:culture Night! LIVING : MISSION. “Church is NOT a building!” Join us as we go out & BE the church in our community! Listen & watch the web for all the final details. Child care will be provided @ SHU.

5.15 – The Gathering at SHU at 6pm! LIVING : YOU. Too often in our lives we feel as though we don’t measure up, we are insignificant, or have no real purpose. Join us as Dan unlocks the life giving truth of finding your identity in Jesus, and Him alone! If we can grasp this, it will change much.

5.22 – The Gathering at SHU at 6pm! LIVING : CHURCH. For some reason when I read about the ‘church’ in the Bible and look at the ‘church’ today, they look very different! What is God really calling us into!?

5.29 – 5TH SUNDAY - FAMILY CELEBRATION! LIVING : COMMUNITY. The 1MOSAIC family will enjoy some food, bonfire, swimming, volley ball, worship and many other fun activities...as we gather for a family cookout out! Check out the web for all the details & location...don’t miss it!!!