

Are You a Mistake? A Message of Healing

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Scriptures (NIV)

John 15:16, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

Ephesians 1:4-6, “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love” he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

1 Peter 2:9, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

Introduction

Mary (not her real name) is a married middle-aged mother of 2 young pre-school children. She is a good wife and mother, yet something is troubling her. During pastoral therapy, Mary mentioned that she firmly believes that she is a mistake because her teenage parents never wanted her.

Because of the “unwanted” pregnancy, her mom had to fall out of school during her matric year, while her dad denied fathering her. Her family in general were looked down upon by the community as well as by other family members. People spoke in whispers and pointed fingers. Mary was the elephant in the room.

Because of the lifelong constant reminder that she was the result of an unwanted pregnancy, Mary presents with feelings of shame, rejection, unworthiness and inadequacy. “Perhaps,” she said, “it would have been better for everyone if I was not born.”

Brothers and sisters, we are here to live a God-directed, God-glorifying, Christ centred, scripturally-based life of faith because of His love, grace and mercy poured out over us.

However, in this life, we – at some point – need to shed those lies that we have agreed to “own.” These lies can be those we tell ourselves or those told to us by others. In any case, since we have accepted ownership of them, we can, with God’s help, also confront them.

Time allows us to touch on only 3 realizations.

1st Realization: I Did Not Accept or Choose Jesus, He Chose Me

This is perhaps what my wife would call “theologically technical” but we need to understand it very clearly. It is important.

The very moment before your salvation, you are still spiritually dead. Dead people are incapable of responding to anything. God the Holy Spirit breathes life into death. God’s inward call produces regeneration, which caused you and I to cry out in repentance and faith so that we are justified by God. These are logical steps in the same event of being born again: When God called you and me, we were immediately regenerated, we turned from sin to God in one action, which justified us.

There is nothing in you or anything you could do that would cause God to have chosen you. Likewise, as a spiritually dead person, there was nothing you could contribute toward your salvation. No IQ test, no initiation ceremony, no challenge to complete or anything.

You cannot, therefore, shout out “I found Him,” but “He found me!”

You have always been part of God’s plan. Romans 8:29-30 reads, “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

This leaves us with the role of our earthly parents in the greater picture of God. And perhaps exploring this is a topic for another day, but for now, know this: even if you are, according to your earthly parents a mistake, to God, you are chosen according to His pleasure, will and purposes. In fact, God has been very concerned with you, not only before your birth but even during your mother’s pregnancy. Psalm 139:14-17 reads, “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. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!”

To do. Explore the Scriptures I quoted here and explain to our case study – Mary – that God chose her.

2nd Realization: If I am a Mistake, The God Made a Mistake

God cannot make a mistake because then He would no longer be God and could not have been God, to begin with. Limited knowledge leads to mistakes since it is only with an absolute knowledge that mistakes can be completely avoided. Scripture is clear on the fact that God’s knowledge is absolute and unlimited. Read, for example, Psalms 147:5, “Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit” and 145:3, “Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.”

Follow my thoughts using this example. God is the one who created everything from nothing and declared His creation good. This, to the natural mind, is incomprehensible. We need a cause. Humans do not do “randomness.” Indeed the first law of science argues that matter cannot be created or destroyed but only converted from solid to liquid to gas to plasma and back again; atoms can be combined into molecules and split into their various parts. But matter cannot be created from nothing or completely destroyed.

Yet, here we are with everything in us and around us functioning to a specific systematic design. No matter your belief – even if its atheism – at some point, everyone has to admit that Someone or something supernatural caused the natural as well as the specific and perfect laws according to which all of it is operating. As a footnote, I point out that although there is a lot that we do not yet know, we are constantly growing into the knowledge of what already is.

At both the macro and micro scales, a mistake will lead to catastrophic consequences. Everything – including you – is a testimony that God does not make mistakes. The moment you or I or anyone else make so much as one mistake, then we are finite and quantifiable, and we don’t have absolute knowledge to claim absolute knowledge. Without absolute

knowledge, there cannot be an absolute standard, therefore we would not know if and when we are making a mistake. God is *the* absolute standard with absolute knowledge and He is incapable of making a mistake. He chose you.

To do: Explain to our case study – Mary – that God does not make mistakes.

3rd Realization: If I Am Not a Mistake, Why Did God Create Me?

There are many answers to this question, the most frequent being, “for a purpose” and “because it pleased Him.”

Having said this, God did not choose you because of something special in you, he chose you out of His love and mercy. Therefore, the real – the correct – reason that God chose you is for His glory. As the Reformers emphasized, to God alone be the glory!

He has chosen you to demonstrate His character, love, grace and mercy. He has chosen you in Jesus Christ to be “holy and blameless in His sight” (Ephesians 1:4). It is only in a “holy and blameless” condition that we can relate to God as He intends. Today’s Scriptures confirm why God made you:

- In John 15:16, we are appointed to *go and bear lasting fruit.*
- In Ephesians 1:4-6, we are chosen *“to the praise of his glorious grace.”*
- In 1 Peter 2:9, we are chosen to *“declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*

This deeply speaks to the purpose and meaning of your life. It may be that Mary’s feelings of shame, rejection, unworthiness and inadequacy are being fuelled through her not exploring and understanding why God created her.

Philippians 1:21 reads, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Our potential in Christ is released when we die to self and live for Him. This is why you were created, Doddridge wrote, “My sole aim in living is to glorify Christ. He is the supreme End of my life, and I value it only as being devoted to his honor.”

This begs the question, “for whom am I living?”

To do: Suppose you shared this 3rd realization with Mary. How would you help Mary if she felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to repent and biblically align her life?

Conclusion

Let's ask each other, "what if Mary was not born? Would the world that she presently influences have been better or worse of?" Perhaps this question can be rephrased to "What would the world have lost if YOU were not born?"

The loss would not only be to the world, but to God as well. But since God is incapable of making mistakes, there is cannot be any loss to Him. You are therefore intentionally here with both meaning and purpose.

Brother/sister, you are not a mistake and you are not unwanted. You are here because God lovingly willed you to be. You are unconditionally loved by God. You are forgiven because Jesus set you free. You are part of the purposes and plans of God. Therefore we praise and worship Him, in fact, this should be our way of life!

So rise in His strength, hold your head up high, seek Him and live every moment to His glory.

Amen.