

FAVORITES

WECOMING THE CHRIST CHILD

What is difficult about the question is our feelings about fairness, and our expectation that God is fair. "That's not fair" is one of the first social constructs that a child learns. The search for fairness in life drives idealists into politics and social reform. When asked to determine fairness we tend to look at outcomes as being a good measure of fairness. Everybody getting the same, as a child, that seems to be fair but then the marathon of life begins. Even in a marathon not everybody gets to begin at the starting line. Then the race spreads out, and that becomes a real reflection of life.

Your mother told you, "Life's not fair," but we didn't want to believe her. We hoped she was wrong. Then we meet life. Life and reality seem to be the epitome of unfairness. You see unfairness everywhere. Is everyone beautiful, is everyone intelligent, clever, quick, or talented? Is everyone gifted, athletic, coordinated, can sing or dance, responsible, driven, kind or caring? You already know the answer, life is not fair.

Whether it is opportunity, family, talents, culture, geography, education or dozens of other things we are not all created equal but what we hope for is justice, that we are all treated the same even though the outcomes will never be equal.

Our challenge then, as we look to God, is the classic scripture, "Does the clay say to the potter, 'Why did you make me this way?'" Yes, why did He make us "this" way, whatever way that may be? And we go back to our initial question, "Does God have favorites?" It may really be a question we don't want answered, especially if we don't feel that we are in the "inner circle" or have all the advantages listed above.

But the answer is "Yes, God does have favorites" but they are nothing like you and I would choose or understand as favorites. In recorded history leaders have always had a group of soldiers who were special who received better pay, training, and equipment but were also the ones because of their loyalty and devotion were counted on and thrown into the most difficult parts of the battle to achieve victory.

God's favorites include martyrs and people who give up their plans and lives to follow Him. People who embrace poverty, sometimes sickness, danger, and a whole host of unknowns without having a plan of their own, blindly (lovingly) following and trusting Him. God's call comes to each of us differently and the giftings for that calling are different. It is such a challenge to look at other people's success without a little bit of longing or envy especially if there is wealth and luxury, and celebrity and ease.

But you, you already are one of God's favorites because He called you and you answered. You may not have been the first one He called or the second or the third but when you answered, "Here am I. Send me" you became His favorite. And when He called you to your Montessori/Christian life of service you became like Peter, James and John, the disciples closest to Him.

At Christmas we welcome the Christ child with celebration but every day you fulfill the words of Jesus, "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes Me."

The accolade of Heaven is, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Nowhere is there mention of "success." What does "well done" mean? It rests on "god" because He is good in us. It rests on faithfulness because we have been faithful to Him and His call. And it rests on servant, because it is Him we have served and welcomed everyday into our classroom.