

LESSONS FROM A CHOCOLATE BAR written by Salome De Klerk

As the last of my sharply formed words spilled out of my mouth, I noted their effects as his shoulders tensed up and his posture changed. Do let me explain. Like most, my Saturday mornings are alarm free, and so in my world, this leads to rushed appointments and deadlines. This particular Saturday morning was no different. I left home accompanied by time pressures and work demands. All I needed was some assistance from the bank teller in transferring some cash into a new account I was opening, and the deadline was today.

My response was channelled towards his words, "This will not be possible". Long story short: I was helped, and the transfer was possible, but I left with the image of his changed posture in my heart.

Determined to continue into the day less strained, I left, but soon heard a familiar voice prompting me not to disengage from my sinful response inside. Confessing my sin of anger, I asked the next question, "What can I do to make this right?". The answer came quickly. Go and buy a slab of chocolate, go back inside and apologise.

Now you may be asking what the lesson was that was learned? Was it to set you alarm at all times? Was it to control your emotions?

Both I agree are good lessons to learn. However, I learned about living life 'Coram Deo', a Latin term meaning 'before the face of God'. I'm learning that His Lordship is heard more loudly speaking to the sins of the heart than through our bold expressions of service.

God, as seen through His many attributes, leads me to know that I live and do everything before and for Him. In my moment with the bank teller, He was present. In your moment at your work station, He is present. His omnipresence should give us such peace and should evoke such reverence. Smith (2018) writes "God's omnipresence is a deterrent to sinners and a comfort to saints".

If we believe and live this, we should never feel like victims in our work circumstances. Nor should we feel like objects on a meaningless conveyer belt. His Lordship is strategically intentional; He never wastes what He invests into us as the efforts of His workmanship, (Ephesians 2:10). He knows full well that the hope of His glory invested in us is Christ (Colossians 1:27).

Whatever your bar of chocolate moment looks like, may it again and again remind you that his Lordship is real and requires a very real response. "There are ways we can influence culture at the institutional level, but primarily we bring the Kingdom of God into the world one person at a time as we interact with the people we live and work with"(Cowan SB 2014).

Thankfully, I walked away with a second image to replace the first. It was an image in direct response to honouring his Lordship through a bar of chocolate. My none too subtle reminder that it is His Lordship in and through us that advances His Kingdom.