

Blue Pomegranates

Intro:

Matt 5:16

Its hard to adorn the gospel with our lives when we are just going through the motions

Problem:

Eph 2:8-10

Faith alone = salvation + works

Our good works are part of the gospel story...but all too often we think of them as a drudgery and a mere duty - but they are anything but...

Mk 12:28-31

For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for *creative, passionate, beautiful* good works which He prepared beforehand that we should walk in

Main Idea:

For we are His workmanship

Created in Christ Jesus

For creative, passionate, beautiful good works

Which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them

Implication:

In this light, creativity is like kintsugi, the Japanese art that transforms broken ceramics into beautiful works of re-creativity. The key to this process is a special lacquer derived from gold, silver, or platinum powder that the artist uses to adhere the pieces together. Running through the pottery is the glittering evidence of the pottery's past and the promise of its future. The gold and silver lines stand out against the muted tones of the earthenware like the scars tell the tales of our lives.

All creativity from a Christian perspective then is like kintsugi in form. This art isn't really about the pottery, or the piece's remade utility; it is about restoration. It's about the fractures. All you see when you look at one of these pieces are the gold and silver threads joining the once-shattered pottery together. Its beauty is in the lacquer's ability to transform what was broken into something more beautiful than the original.

The gospel does the same to our lives and creativity. The sparkling lacquer holding the ceramics together mirrors the glorious providence of God that holds our own lives together. Where we're fractured, the Lord pieces us back together through Christ and seals us with his Spirit. And where we've broken our creativity into millions of little idols, God pulls it all back together for those who love him.

For the creative, this means you find beauty in the places where God has healed you and transformed your creativity. It means you allow God to weave his beautiful restoration into every one of your creative acts. Let the One who has healed your fractures get the glory of your life and your life's work. Put the golden and silver threads of God's providence on display. Show how he weaves your fractured life and art back together and holds it in place. When you do, the world will see his glory, but you shouldn't mind. Your eyes will be captured by it, too. ((odd) Thomas Terry/ Ryan lister)

Application:

Christian, God has called you by name to adorn the greatest work of art ever created...with your life. if you cannot do this with passionate creativity and zeal -> look again

Articles for further study:

<https://tifwe.org/why-your-creativity-matters-to-god/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/creativity-matters-christ/>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/why-god-wants-you-to-embrace-your-creativity.html>

<http://www.bloggingtheologically.com/2015/10/01/pursue-creativity-to-fullest/>

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Text:

For we are His workmanship

Ex. 31:1 ¶ The LORD said to Moses,

Ex. 31:2 **See, I have called by name** Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,

Jn 10:3, 14-16 (God specifically calls us for salvation - like Israel...but there is more)

Isa 43:1-7 (God called Israel by name - for salvation)

Isa 44:24-45:13 (called by name for service - God is the artist and He has a plan - Cyrus not an option but a specific part of His grand masterpiece - so are you - workmanship = poema)

Created in Christ Jesus For creative, passionate, beautiful good works

Ex. 31:3 and I have **filled him with the Spirit of God**, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship,

Ex. 31:4 to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze,

Ex. 31:5 in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft.

1 cor 12:1-11 (God is sovereign over sanctification and calling)

rom 12:3-8 (call and equipped not only to service but to do so passionately)

(1 cor 10:31 (with everything we do - Christ redeemed you, your skills and efforts))

rev 21:15-26 (more than gospel tracts - create, labor and craft for an audience of One)

Which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in

Ex. 31:6 And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make **all that I have commanded you**:

Ex. 31:7 the tent of meeting, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furnishings of the tent,

Ex. 31:8 the table and its utensils, and the pure lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense,

Ex. 31:9 and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin and its stand,

Ex. 31:10 and the finely worked garments, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests,

Ex. 31:11 and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place. According to **all that I have commanded you**, they shall do."

Ex 19:7-8 (ex 25:9, 40 (the same command to obey ten commandments comes with the command to create))

Ex 28:33 (ex 25:18, 31-33 (commanded to do art representative of heaven (angels) and earth(tree almonds))

but this is not a utilitarian task - blue purple and red natural not blue - this is a calling to make something beautiful simply because it is objectively beautiful...which brings Him glory)

ps 104 (the world is not a utilitarian place - it is a masterpiece from the greatest artist)

Lk 19:40 (look what has been lost)

(ps 19:1-6 (all of creation all beauty meant to declare the glory of God - especially us))

rom 1:18-23; 8:20-23 (though there is value in art for arts sake when the you have lost every standard of beauty

- the Heavens can no longer declare the glory of God to you, the sky no longer proclaims His handiwork...)

lost the fixed point of reference - anti art - debases man and hurls insult to God...)

jn 3:14-15 (not saved by seeing something beautiful - we have lost the ability to be moved by beauty - so we have something ugly to look at - no form or majesty - ugliness of God upon a cross to be saved...)

2 cor 4:1-6 (redemption comes when this ugly thing becomes the most beautiful thing that exists)

2 cor 4:7-12 (to those being saved the ugliness of our lives, our failures and our redemption is the most beautiful art) implication)

Titus 2:10 (Barabbas road has not prepared good works for you - God has

Christian, God has called you by name to adorn the greatest work of art ever created...with your life

if you cannot do that with passionate creativity and zeal -> look again)

Application Questions

MESSAGE RECEIVED
(Do you understand what you learned?)

- What is the main point of this message? (Could you summarize it in your own words?)
- What is something new that you learned?
 - What was your knowledge in this area before you heard this message?
 - Any change you will make in your daily life based upon this new knowledge?
- What reference verse stands out to you and why?
- How did this message encourage you? Why do you think that is?
- Did the message pair with your weekly bible reading in any way?
- What is a struggle you had with this message? It's content or it's application?
- What are some truths that stand out to you in this message?
 - Any life testimonies that you can think of that are good examples of these truths?
- What character/attribute of God stands out to you the most in this message and why?
 - Any specific verse that puts this attribute on display?

MESSAGE APPLIED
(What are you going to do with what you learned?)

Culture

- What are the lies of the world/devil that we need to be aware of that are antithetical to this message?
- What do you think the cultural animosity is towards this message if we apply it rightly?

Church

- How do you see this message impacting the church corporately? (locally/globally)
 - What prayers would be good to pray for the church body based on this message?

Individual

- Is there a sin in your life that this message convicted you of?
 - Why do you think this was a blind spot in your sanctification before this message?
- How did the message address any specific life circumstance you are going through right now?

- Select two questions from the below list and write down your answer to them:
 - How does this message change or impact your:
 - Prayer Life?
 - Evangelism?
 - Bible Reading?
 - Christian Relationships?
 - Non-Christian relationships?
 - Parenting?
 - Role as a Husband/Wife?
 - Workplace?
- **How have you been changed by this message? What is your one memorable takeaway. If I ask you “How did God sanctify you through the preaching of this message, how would you respond?”**