

Column

It wasn't the famed blue moon of Kentucky spoken of in the Country Music legend Bill Monroe's waltz. It was more of a silver color, but equally impressive. Round, full and luminous it shimmered overhead as I travelled before daybreak to church last week to help prepare breakfast for children attending a day camp.

I became aware of it as I rounded a corner and passed a cemetery. The thought that passed through my head was that each person in that cemetery and millions of others going all the way back to the dawn of time had seen what I was seeing. The moon linked them to me. We were one.

For those in the distant past, the moon was more than an object of wonder. It was an object of utility, as Rebecca Boyle explained in an article that appeared in the July 9, 2019, issue of Science News. She wrote:

“The sun's rhythm may have set the pace of each day, but when early humans needed a way to keep time beyond a single day and night, they looked to a second light in the sky. The moon was one of humankind's first timepieces . . . The moon's face changes nightly and with the regularity of the seasons, making it a reliable marker of time.”

But this heavenly orb was more. It served as a reminder of the greatness of the Creator and our comparative smallness. Beside it, we humans are as a speck of dust. The psalmist, likely the shepherd boy David, expressed this thought like this:

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Psalm 8:3,4).

But he did not stop with the observable. He had an additional insight that came from revelation. It was that God had a purpose and plan for us frail children of dust. Thus he continued:

“For thou hast made him [man] a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet” (8:5,6).

The God who created the heavenly bodies and set them in their courses has a purpose for your life and my life. Going back to Genesis, humans were placed in

the garden of creation to reflect God's glory, similarly to the way the sun reflects light back to earth. They were to be God's image-bearing stand-ins and caretakers. Their vocation was to bring the rule of heaven to bear on earth.

This vocation remains, though because of human sinfulness and rebellion (the Fall), humans have not been able to perform this role perfectly. They have, in fact, made a mess of the garden, and indeed continue to do so down to this present day.

This is where Christ comes into the picture. He is what Adam was supposed to be and more. He reflects the Father's glory perfectly. More than that, those joined to Him in faith, share His glory, enabling them to reflect this same glory into the world . . . again as the moon does with the light of the sun.

The question is: Are Jesus' people aware of this vocation? Are they fulfilling their high calling? Are YOU shining? If so, keep on shining.

O LORD, who never failest to help and govern those whom thou dost bring up in thy steadfast fear and love; Keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Collect for the Second Sunday in Trinity, Book of Common Prayer).

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