

Eyes of Faith www.crosseseverywhere.com

Category: Bits and Pieces

The dawn light is beginning to shine on the one special painting that I cherish most. The early soft light washes over the canvas bringing to life textures that begin to produce shapes that tell an ancient story about a humble, loving King.

As I watch, the scene of Calvary becomes clear yet again as it does every morning when the sunrise greets the painting.

You see weeks ago, some friends were over and said they could see two Crosses in the painting; the one Cross of Jesus and the other cross of just one thief. Sure enough, when I looked the crucifixion scene unfolded before me.

Throughout history when artist paint that scene they elevate the Cross of Christ to emphasize that He is Gods Son.

Yet here in the painting on my wall there are only two crosses at the same height. To me it says, at the crucifixion Jesus died like one of us, in place of us, a sinner like us.

He took my place on that Cross. Yes, He came to die for us all. But He would have come to earth to die on the Cross for me alone, if I had been the only sinner on earth.

How was it I had not noticed before? Maybe it's because we are trained to see the forest instead of the tree. Seeing the tree means we must get involved, we must feel others pain, we must care about those around us...its safer to see the forest!

But not so with our Lord. He knows each of us individually and feels our pain and cry's tears for each of us. Max Lucado said in one of his wonderful books:

“When we see a crowd, we see exactly that, a crowd. Filling a stadium or flooding a mall. When we see a crowd, we see people, not persons. A herd of human's. A flock of face's.

But not so with the Shepherd. To Him every face is different. Every face is a story. Every face is a child. Every child has a name.

The Shepherd knows his sheep. He knows each one by name. The shepherd knows you. He knows your name and He will never forget you. In Isaiah 49:16,

God said, "I have written your name on my hand."

Quite a thought, isn't it? Your name on God's hand. Your name on God's lips."

How awesome, that when He views the painting of our life that He has created, He sees us and not the crowd.

Why only two crosses, there were three on the hill. In the painting which thief is there, which is not?

One thief acknowledged Him as the Son of God and was promised to be with Jesus in Heaven that same day. The other thief went to his death with a heart of stone. The weight of that heart of stone carried him down to meet the fate that he chose for himself...an eternity without God.

CS Lewis said, "There are only two kinds of people in the end, those who say to God "Thy will be done".

And those to whom God says in the end, "Thy will be done."

You belong to your physical family, but you had no choice. In heaven everyone there will again be a family but to belong to this eternal family you must choose!

So which thief remains in the painting, does it make any difference to you?

Read the rest of the story in the Category: Ernie's Book (Crosses Everywhere Book Stories).