

The Jesus Partnership

Series: The Divine/Human Partnership

Rod Myers

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David mused 3000 years ago: “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim in the paths of the sea.” (Psa.8:3-8)

How amazing is it that the God who created heaven and earth who needs nothing decided to partner with us.

Jesus’ incarnation is evidence of the divine/human partnership. “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.” (John 1:1, 14)

As God become man Jesus speaks of His own partnership with the Father. “My father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working. I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” (John 5:17, 19)

Jesus demonstrated His absolute dependence on God the Father, and the work they did together. “I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.” (John 5:36)

The concept of fellowship is partnership, sharing, having things in common. John spoke of this: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:1-3)

One of the most amazing facts about our relationship with God is our being able to be fellow-workers with Him. Paul writes, “What after all is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through who you came to believe-as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I

planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." (1 Cor.3:5-9)

When I decided to preach the gospel I said NO to the music business. How great it would have been to work with some of my music heroes, Merle, Allen, Vince, Johnny, Willie, or George. (If I have to give the last names, then this probably doesn't mean much to you.) I would have loved to have been in the studio assisting in the recording of their many records, or booking events for them around the world, or promoting their music to the world. I also said NO to the legal profession. How great would it have been to rub shoulders with attorneys and judges within the community? To be at the center of life/death decisions where the destiny of people was being decided? But, I decided to take another position to be able to work alongside, day in and day out, with the greatest person who ever lived, Jesus. I get to go to work every day with Jesus. The shingle on my door reads, "Jesus and Associates."

Two Passages:

Matthew 11:25-30, "At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. All things have been committed to Me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'"

- I am glad that I don't have to qualify for this position-not wise and learned, but simply a child willing to work with Jesus.
- I am glad to be working with the only one who knows the secrets of God and is willing to reveal them to me.
- I am glad to be in a yoke with Jesus who understands my weariness and burdens, and pulls with me providing rest for my soul.

Colossians 1:28-2:3, "We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we might present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me. I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

- The job is incredibly big and difficult-no less than presenting people perfect in Christ.
- The job is made doable because of Christ's energy that works in me.
- The work product is incredible-Christ in you, the hope of glory.

For the past four weeks I have talked about the disciple-making culture that is needed to promote and sustain the strategy of growth. Lest someone get the idea that this is a merely human endeavor, it is essential to understand the divine/human partnership required. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are not merely commanding us to Go Get It DONE-they are calling out to us to join them in the work they are already doing. How wonderful it is to show up for work each morning and Jesus is standing at the door waiting on us, with a full day's work laid out, and the excitement of seeing the will of His Father done on earth as it is done in heaven. No sleeping in for me. I love going to work.