

Pk's Perspectives ... Rags to Riches

For me, the cross and the empty tomb are the pivotal points in my personal rags-to-riches story. I brought nothing - except my sin & guilt - to Jesus when I asked him to save me; like Isaiah, whatever things I may have thought to offer Jesus by way of recompense for saving me were revealed as nothing more than filthy rags when exposed to the holiness and glory of Christ. I was worse off than the clueless kid who goes into Circle K with two pennies and asks if he has enough to purchase a \$2.00 drink.

I came to the cross because the empty tomb is all the proof I needed in order to know that Jesus is who He claims to be — God in the flesh, who came to earth to take my punishment for my sin so that through faith in Him, I might be born again as a redeemed son of God whom He further endowed with His Holy Spirit, a plan for my earthly life, and the certain hope of eternity in heaven. I came to the cross with nothing but rags - a walking deadman - and at the cross I inherited the riches of my Father's kingdom.

I'm telling you - every sinner that brings his or her sin stained rags to the cross and in faith calls out to Jesus for salvation is born again as a redeemed son or daughter into the Father's kingdom. Every saved sinner's story is a rags-to-riches testimony! Listen to what God tells us in Scripture:

- Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
- Colossians 1:11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Sinclair B. Ferguson writes, "We are adopted into God's family through the resurrection of Christ from the dead in which He paid all our obligations to sin, the law, and the devil — in whose family we once lived. Our old status lies in his tomb. A new status is ours through His resurrection." Maybe a bit more succinctly, Watchman Nee echoed the same thought when he wrote, "Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection." The cross and the resurrection are the pivot points for every sinner saved by grace through faith; we kneel at the cross broken, stained, clutching filthy rags, without hope yet asking for mercy and Christ raises us to walk in the riches of His grace, the newness of life, clothed in the shining robes of His righteousness which He places on our shoulders! Amazing, humbling, awesome, stunning, remarkable, breathtaking, astounding...all of these and more overflow my heart and mind every year when I slow down and reflect on Jesus, the cross on which He died, and the empty tomb that could not withstand the resurrection power of God.

Me. Rags to riches. SMH in wonder!! Love you, PK.