2020 06 21 Even the Hairs.

Genesis 2:8-21. Psalm 86:1-18. Romans 6:1-11. Matthew 10:24-39.

At the men’s breakfast that we had last Saturday we sat around a fire under the protective roof of a large gazebo on a property in the bush. I had not read the title of this week’s message but we talked about this topic.

We noted that every one of the billions of people on this earth had different DNA, eye, ear, finger print, voice prints, each is a unique person created/crafted by God.

My Sister and I recently had ancestor tracing done and the result came back as a bit of a shock – she had Spanish, Greek, Italian, Scottish etc heritage while I had Iceland and all those top frozen countries and Scottish. It looked like we were not related – yet there in the list of relatives *we showed as full blood brother and sister!*

The answer lies in the millions of combinations of DNA strands that come to us from our biological parents – the God selected ones for each of us can be totally diverse and yet we still come from the same parents – how incredibly wonderous!

In his book Forty Days of Purpose[[1]](#footnote-1) the author states the most exciting truth – God has selected the exact strands from each parent that He wanted to make us the special unique person that we are – in this respect it does not make any difference whether we were the result of a wanted love match or an ‘accident’ or however we came to be in man’s world – in Gods world – God wanted the DNA from those exact two people to create the special person that is you and I!

Then you see the words that our Lord Jesus spoke “the very hairs of your head are all numbered”[[2]](#footnote-2)

Even if were to be sceptical and think that this is just the extravagant way that people in that part of the world spoke – how could it not be real, how could the God of all power and love and eternity not know this – it would limit God being the ultimate – beyond the ultimate – and it would detract from the intimacy that we could have with God, it would lessen the wonder of Gods love for us.

We look at a baby that we love we see all their beauty and kiss their toes – maybe even if years latter maybe their overgrown smelly feet do not bring a desire to kiss them.

Having been a massage the therapist and sports trainer for 25 years I have handled a lot of feet but you know the most lovely thing is gently massaging the feet of someone who is dying – it brings them a calmness and there is an intimacy and a connection that for me does not come from holding their hand.

Each person is unique and loved by God the Creator, the Father – can we live in that intimacy and love? Does this being so totally known and loved and accepted make us a little uncomfortable?

“So do not fear”[[3]](#footnote-3) our Lord said – referring I assume to this earth and its dangers from following Jesus, many of them had to latter face the choice of dying or cursing Jesus but there is a different kind of fear, the fear of God, the fear of intimacy with God, the fear of being known to the core of our being, the fear or the apprehension that coming closer to God will reveal things that are in us – things that we do not even have an inkling of as yet – fear that we will have to yield up and confess things in our lives, fear of reality, fear of emotion, fear of ………

Does Psalm 139 bring us comfort or a small sense of unease?

 “O Lord You have searched me and known .

 You know my sitting down and my rising up;

 You understand my thought from afar.

You ‘winnow’ my ways and my lying down,

And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

Even before there is a word on my tongue,

Behold o Lord, You know all of it.

You have enclosed me behind and before,

And laid Your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

It is high, I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in the place of the dead, behold You are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the utter most parts of the sea,

Even there Your hand will lead me,

And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

If I say “surely the darkness will overwhelm me,

And the light around me will be night,”

Even the darkness is not dark to You.

And the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are alike to You.

Continue reading v13-22

Verses 19 -22 always seemed weird to me

As if they did not belong, a hatred and a violence in the midst of a mind either crying out to God or rejoicing in the intimacy of Gods love for them.

After years of ‘skipping over’ this section and reading straight on to the cry of a person who comes close to God and desires above anything to be clean and walk in Gods Presence, the feeling came to me – “my temptations are the enemy” – do I really with all my being want them dead!

“Yes Lord yes Lord”

“Search me, O Lord, and know my heart;

Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

And see if there be any way of pain in me,

And lead me in the everlasting way.”

*“every hair on our heads are numbered” and recorded as are every unkind, impatient, unclean thought as is every thought and emotion of kindness and care for others and this creation that God has made for us.*

“Come unto me all you who are carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest”[[4]](#footnote-4)

Jesus will not let us fall from His hand – after what He went through to ransom us – what greater security could we have to be totally open to Him.[[5]](#footnote-5)

“God loved His creation so much that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

Remember the story that Jesus told – the one we call “The Parodical Son”[[7]](#footnote-7)?

It is really the story of “The Waiting Father” because the father was looking out for his return – day after day in heat and cold the father was standing there looking down the road - waiting.

One day the drunken, womanising son who was living in a pig sty “Came to himself” and in repentance – maybe with a touch of – ‘I need somewhere to live’ - returned to his father – the father ran to him and embraced him. The son - in humility now - the walk home had changed him; he asked his father to forgive him and take him back as a slave. The father took him in as an honoured son, bathed and given clean clothes and put the family ring of authority on his finger.

*So it is with our Heavenly Father who knows every hair on our head and the Spirit of the Father who lives in us.*

Matthew 10:24-39

Before looking at v28b we need to have the certainty and security of John 3:16

“God loved His creation so much that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.”

Is this me?

“Jesus became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”[[8]](#footnote-8)

Do we know in ourselves that when Jesus took our sins into himself on the cross God **‘filled’** that empty space with His own righteousness?

We may only understand a tiny touch of this in our lifetime in this body as “now we see through a dark glass window but *then* when we pass from this body we will know ourselves in all the fullness of the new clothes of purity and the signate ring of the family of God on our finger.”[[9]](#footnote-9)

Along with the security and love of knowing that God knows every hair on our head comes a warning: “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”[[10]](#footnote-10) Also in Luke 12:5.

I used to think that it was the devil who had this power for he is the ‘Prince of this world’[[11]](#footnote-11) and our Lord conquered the power of death by entering into it and by the power of his righteousness defeated it.[[12]](#footnote-12)

The commentaries tell me that it is referring to God and of that ‘fear’ – a reverent fear for us and dreadful fear for those who reject Gods love.

God is justice and God is love – the two go together.

There is our Lord Jesus’ cry from the cross “my God, my God, why have you forsaken me.”[[13]](#footnote-13) And the love;

Look at the picture of heaven in Revelations – The Holiness and terror and reaching out of God and the love - “Behold, the dwelling place of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”[[14]](#footnote-14)

Jesus told us to call God our heavenly Father[[15]](#footnote-15) – yet there is the terror of His justice if we decide to carry ourselves into our death:

“Knowing therefore **the terror** of the **Lord**, we **persuade** men …” [[16]](#footnote-16)

The longer our attitude and soul stays dull to God the harder it becomes to turn around – I have read this many times yet imagine the wonder if it can also bring to the person who “comes to themselves”[[17]](#footnote-17) and turns to God in the reality of knowing – knowing in faith, knowing that it is real.

“Justification by Faith, Christians should never use this phrase to suggest that they are ‘put right’ with God by their faith. This would be like earning your own way to heaven. In fact, the phrase ‘justification by faith’ has a quite different meaning. It is because of Jesus Christ, and not because of anything we have done or will do, that we are made right with God. But the means by which we are justified is faith. Faith is like a channel, through which the benefits of Christ flow to us. Faith is the means by which the work of Christ is applied to our lives. …… the very faith through which we are justified is a gift of God. Faith is not something we can achieve: it is something achieved within us by God. Everything necessary for salvation has been done, and done well, by God.”[[18]](#footnote-18)

Eternity is in our own hands – where do we stand or fall?

“teach me Your way, O Lord;

I will live in Your truth;

**Unite** (untie) my heart to **fear and honour[[19]](#footnote-19)** Your name.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with all my heart”[[20]](#footnote-20)

“You alone are God.”

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Have a look at the dramatization of “The Hound of Heaven – a modern version.”

Children activity – grass, flower etc – see difference between each piece if grass –like us each is different and special.

 make a collage of grass each piece individually glued on.

1. Rick Warren [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Matthew 10:30. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. John 17:12 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. John 3:16. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Ephesians 2:2. John 12:21. & 14:30. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Ephesians 1:19,20. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Revelations 21:3-5. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. 2 Corinthians 5:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Parodical son. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. (Making sense of the cross, Alister McGrath, p.61) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Amplified Bible [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Psalm 86:11,10. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)