

Viral Messages #5

Our Song

May 5, 2020

On November of 2009, Dr. Kathleen Wermke, director of the center for pre-speech disorders in Germany did research, comparing the cries of newborns in Germany with those of newborns in France. The research involved the precise recordings in maternity wards of infants in Germany and in France.

What they discovered in their research was stunning.

They found that babies cry with an accent. In France, they found that babies consistently inflect from a low to a high pitch. In Germany it's the opposite, from high to low.

What the researchers found in this is that the intonation of the baby's cries, mimics the "melody" or song of the mothers...or more precisely, the patterns of speech characteristics of the mother's national language.

The French language tends to have a rise at the end of a sentence; and the German language has a fall at the end.

Here is the amazing fact of their research. A baby eavesdrops on its mother for nine months. The baby listens to the song of the mother's sorrow and joys, and then emerges from the mother's insides with her voice ringing in its little soul.

That baby imitates her momma's song.

This got me thinking. When we are "born again" what heaven born song do we hear?

I know that often is the time that I sing it poorly, stammering and crying off key, but we sing, it's born in us. It's in our bones. In our souls.

So, what's the music of heaven? What's the voice of the Father that every born son or daughter of this earth has heard?

I mean, were we made in His image? What is that song?

Love.

Love is the music of heaven.

When we love, no matter how awkwardly, we hum an anthem sung in Heaven.

God began singing that song before the creation of all things.

Before the sea, sky, trees, sunsets and sunrises, there was love.

Pure love that flowed from Father to Son, Son to Spirit, and then back around again...unhindered, unbroken, undiminished, wild and unbridled.

Theologians called this "perichoresis".

This is the eternal relationship of the Three-in-One God. God in Himself was and is a community of radical love. And the lifeblood of that eternal community is the song of love. It is ours as well.

Here's where I want to be honest with you. Sometimes the song gets muted, and swallowed up by this world. By our fears and worries. Anger hurt and loss...even by my own poor choices...Some days I can barely remember the tune.

To refocus our overwhelmed heart, we must remember one thing if we wish to have the song flow again...we must remember that our God is faithful.

To find a picture of God's faithfulness we have to go to the book of Job.

Turn with me to [Job 42:5](#) and just put your finger there for a moment.

The religious world of Job believed that God's faithfulness and relationship with His people should always look like doing, fixing, judging, answering and healing. We get that view from Job's friends.

In return for a works for righteousness, they believed that God was obliged to make things right for His people. But then there was Job. God declared him righteous. And yet he suffered and lost everything. In return for Job's righteousness, Job received unimaginable suffering. It silenced the love song within him.

So where was God's faithfulness?

In Job's world, God was a question answering god. But when the true God showed up, He only asked more questions. How disappointing for Job's friends.

God was supposed to be a condemning and judging god. But the God behind the real story has more in mind than sentencing and punishing. His faithfulness is expressed in a way that none of them could have ever imagined. He showed up! God was present.

Nothing could have been more disturbing for them.

dis·turb

verb 1 a: to interfere with: interrupt b: to alter the position or arrangement of > c: to upset the natural balance or relations

2 a: to destroy the tranquility or composure of > b: to throw into disorder c: alarm

d: to put to inconvenience >

[Job 42:5](#)

"I had heard about You", stammers Job, "but now my eye sees You."

This is God's disturbing faithfulness.

Jesus came to this earth to show us the Father's faithfulness. And everyone who came close to Jesus was disappointed by His disturbing revelation of just what the faithfulness of God was like.

Like in Job's day there were those who wanted Jesus to judge and to condemn.

In [John chapter 8](#), the scribes and Pharisees hounded Jesus for a judgment against the woman who was caught in the act of adultery. In Jesus was faithful to their notion of God and the law, they reasoned, Jesus had no other choice.

But Jesus refused to condemn her. Once again, he is asking questions: "He who is without sin, cast the first stone." Again, He asks: "Woman where are your accusers?"

Later in [John 12:47](#) Jesus declares: "I did not come to judge the world, but to save it". Jesus' disturbing faithfulness looks nothing like they imagined. Instead of condemning, He showed up to save.

Others in Jesus' day wanted healing. And to be sure He healed them by the thousands. But faithfulness for Jesus did not always look like healing. In [John 11](#) Jesus hears the report that one of his closest friends is dying. Hearing the news he waits there for two more frustrating days. As a result, Lazarus dies.

When Jesus arrives in Bethany, Mary and Martha meet Jesus with the same disappointed accusation on their lips. **"If you had only been here, my brother would not have died.** If only you had fixed things and answered our plea the way we wanted you to. And the song of love falls on deaf ears.

But like His Father, Jesus has come to show us that God is faithful to us in ways we could have never dreamed. Before Jesus moves on to the tomb of His friend, to call the dead man from the grave, He does something that most of us never regard as a miracle. But it is the miraculous part of the story.

The miracle? Jesus wept. The song of love had notes of sadness and sorrow. Loss. He showed up and entered fully and painfully into the suffering of His friends. Jesus is present...and in His presence, another subtle note of the song is sung...And then came the resurrection of His friend.

Let me ask you the same questions that I asked myself.

Who is God to you?

Is the answer man? The fixer? Is He a theological Entity that is frozen on the throne? Is your greatest hope in Him that He will someday destroy your enemies? If that is who God is to you...you have forgotten the song...

Or could He possibly, and unimaginably be the God we meet in Job, who descends from the throne room, where He has been dealing with the accusations of Satan, and shows up...having been moved to Job's side because of Job's tears. He is present with Job.

Let me ask those questions again. Who is Jesus to you?

The great Teacher? The miracle worker? Is He some new age avatar that floats three feet off the ground and glows? Is your greatest hope that he will someday appear and destroy all of your enemies?

Or might He be the very image of the God whose disturbing faithfulness to us looks like the "Incarnation", showing up simply, showing up to make His name "Immanuel" "God with us", true in the fullest way it could ever be true. Showing up, not to wave a magic wand, but to enter into our joys and our sufferings "With us".

Here's the thought that I want to leave you with today; could it possibly be true that the greater miracle is not the healing or the unexpected check, or that dime found in the strangest places, but maybe the greatest miracle is that God has chosen to be with us through it all?

Could it possibly be true that the greatest miracle is not God's provision...but His presence?

Maybe, just maybe, when we ask God to move in our lives and He doesn't move in the way we expect, maybe He is up to something else.

Maybe God is working a greater miracle than we could have ever imagined.

Maybe it is time for us to see that He is not giving the answer we ask for in the way that we ask for it, because He has a deeper purpose than just answering our prayers?

The God of the Universe has determined to do a work in (not for) us.

Paul declares in [Philippians 1:6](#) that God has promised to complete this interior, spiritual work until He is finally finished, and that will be on the day that we see Jesus face to face.

"For I am confident of the very thing that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

Question: so, how do we get our accent back? Our song back?...

Have you ever heard an orchestra tuning up before a concert? It sounds like chaos.

French horns, cellos, strings, flutes, everyone sounding off, everyone doing his own thing. A grand mess of confusion.

This is how our life seem most of the time. It seems that God has abandoned us and left us to fend for ourselves...

But then the first chair violin plays a long high C, slowly, all the other instruments join in.

They become focused, centered, ready to perform. The same thing happens with the chaos of our lives when we turn our souls to God in worship. To lean on His faithfulness like a weaned child...and listen to His love song as He sings over us...

Then and only then will the song of love arise.

The Psalmist said it best: "Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart." [Ps. 37:4](#)

Show video: "Always Faithful"

Selah