

The Adopted Life

Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ 04.03.2011

“John, You’re So Much Better Than That Tim Brassell”

In the story where God chooses David over his older brothers (1 Samuel 16.1-13), I always identified with David. I was the youngest of my family, and between me and my older brother, I was definitely the less impressive specimen. So of course I have always liked that story.

But as I get older, I am starting to experience this story also from the perspective of the more impressive older brothers. Because I’ve spent decades now building up an impressive resume. I want God to glance over at me and say “Holy cow, look at THAT one!” But when my Father looks at me, he says no such thing. Frankly, I am disappointed. He embraces me, he adores me, he delights in me. But he never says “John, you’re so much better than that Tim Brassell.”

Grace starves my ego. I don’t know how to be special, if that specialness does not imply the un-specialness of others. I was hoping to end this musing with some profound theological insight, but there aren’t any occurring to me. Except perhaps that I still have darkness in me, that I have not yet mastered the art of loving things that are lovely. I guess that’s insightful enough. It is Lent, after all.

~ John Stonecypher