

RELEVANCE

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, the son of man that you care for him? (Ps 8:3-4)

A young widow was asked to comment on the death of her husband in Gulf War II. She said: "Finish the job, I don't want my husband's death to be in vain". A distraught mother told me recently about her teenage son. He was depressed because he felt that his life had no meaning. Our first grandchild, Joshua, has been in a coma for over seven months. His mother recently told a therapist about his miraculous deliverance from death. "Surely", she reasoned, "God has kept Josh alive for some special purpose". She wanted everyone to know that his life was relevant.

Man's search for relevance is as old as Eden. On the one hand we have God who is communicating His love. On the other hand we have the devil who tries to make us believe that God doesn't care. Note carefully the words of the great liar to Eve: "You will not surely die for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3:4-5) Adam was not deceived, but the woman was. She obviously felt that she was irrelevant in the eyes of God. This "deception" was key to her sinful conduct.

Often, when God calls us to do some work for Him, our first reaction is to put ourselves down as though we are totally irrelevant and insignificant.

- When God called Moses he said: "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." (Exod 4:10)
- When God called Gideon he said: "But Lord . . . how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the

least in my family." (Judg 6:15)

- When God called Saul he said: "But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?" (1 Sam 9:21)
- When God called Mary she said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant" (Luke 1:46-48)
- When Jesus came to John to be baptized, John didn't want to do it because he did not feel worthy to carry the sandals of Jesus (Matt. 3:11).
- Nathanael was surprised that Jesus knew him. He shouldn't have been surprised. Even before Philip called him, Jesus knew all about him (John 1:48, 2:25)
- A Roman centurion said to Jesus that he was not worthy for the Christ to come under his roof (Matt. 8:8).

The truth of the matter is that God knew us before we were even born. Please consider these inspired words: **"O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in-- behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."** (Ps 139:1-13)

Do not let the devil deceive you into thinking that you are irrelevant. The One who knows you the best, loves you the most. God has a wonderful plan for your life, and when you surrender to Him, you will not only have life, but life abundant.