

Immerse Day 39 :: Mar. 25

I hear stories of people asked to perform before a famous person. Queen Elizabeth gets a command performance of a musical. The President of the United States gets a personal rendition of a song. Sometimes it's not a performance but a piece of art. A painting of the King of Jordan, a sculpture of Napoleon Bonaparte, or a drawing of a famous actor. The story always revolves around the humility, awe, and fear the performer feels before they go on. In olden days, the fear was very palpable – failure often meant death. Today, the “death” is of a reputation or even a career.

Can you imagine how Bezalel felt? Not only did he have charge over the creation of the temple, but specifically he created the Ark of the Covenant, the box through which God would connect with humankind. To create the golden Ark that would in many ways be treated like God, WAS God's presence for His people, must have been an incredible privilege, and an incredible burden. Humility, awe, fear? I can't even imagine.

It brings me to Mary. The ultimate performance for God, Mary created not a sculpture or a painting of God, nor even the box that would hold His presence. She actually created God Himself, Jesus the Messiah. Humility, awe, fear? I can't even imagine.

We are told in scripture that we bear the image of God, the Imago Dei. When we speak, act, love, hate, ignore, discriminate, or care, we do so as the image of God. We create an act not for God but in His name. What we do, God bears the reputation for. When we hate as Christians, however noble, the world sees God hating. When we cry out for justice, the world hears God crying out for justice. Whatever we do, as Christians who bear God's image and live in Jesus' name, the world sees God doing it, and Jesus' reputation is at stake.

Humility? Awe? Fear? I can't even imagine. Or maybe I can.