Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 31 "Nobody else can be me."

There is a myth arising from the philosophy of ancient Greece that still causes confusion and trouble today. This myth is that there is a secret reality deep inside a person, which is the "true" person. This "inner person" may or may not be accurately reflected in the "outer" aspects of the person, such as abilities, personality and life experiences. The nicest part of this idea is that, since the "true you" is secret, you can imagine yourself to be whatever you want and no one can prove you wrong! God does not see us this way, but rather in what we would call today a more "holistic" manner. ALL the parts, "inner" and "outer", are part of the person, and they are all interconnected. Therefore, if we understand that God truly wants all of "us", we know that this includes ALL of our parts:

> "*Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness."* (Rom 6:13-14 [NIV])

But before we can offer ourselves to God we must take ownership of ALL of ourselves, understanding that ALL of it will bless God if we just give it to Him. The key point here is that we "offer the parts" of our bodies not by cutting them off and burning them on an altar, but by ***using*** them. And when we acknowledge that everything we have done with our bodies is indeed part of us, then we can glorify God for the transformations He has brought about in "us".

- God gave everyone abilities, and we glorify God when we use them to serve Him and others.
- God gave everyone a unique personality, and we glorify God when we find how God can bless people through us, just as we are.
- God has given every person a unique life history, and we glorify God when we submit to Him in transforming us and then testify about what He has done in and for us.

There are those who feel they have NOTHING to offer – but they are wrong. If you have ears you can listen, and there are multitudes of people with stories to tell but no one to listen. If you have a mouth you can smile, and there are multitudes who need that. Can you drive a car? There are many who need a lift. Do you like to organize things? Can you dance? Cook? Type? Do you like to help people? Try making a list of what you CAN do and LIKE to do, then take that list to your pastor or the person who organizes volunteers at a local hospital. You will find there are people who need YOU – just as you are.