

HOW DOES GOD SEE ME?

The Shack- Part 2

We can be a lot like Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:8–10:
“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ He answered, ‘I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.’”

But is it possible our perspective is wrong? Could it be that God sees beauty in our mess?

1. A BEAUTIFUL MESS / A DIFFERENT VIEW

Let’s go back to that first garden, Eden, in Genesis 1:1:27–28, 31: *“So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.... God blessed them. . .”*

How did He view humanity? How does He view us?
Good. Very good.

*“For You created my inmost being;
You knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Your works are wonderful. . . .
How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!”* Psalm 139:13–14, 17

*“Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for
you,
nations in exchange for your life.”* Isaiah 43:4

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” Luke 12:6–7

The apostle Paul later described God’s lavish love for us this way: *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”*

1 John 3:1

2. ABIDING IN CHRIST

“Your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:5

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.”

John 15:1–4

3. HIGHER VISION

God is inviting us into true, restorative relationship. Jesus gave words to it like this: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

Matthew 11:28–30

Isaiah gives us assurance that God has a much bigger perspective than we do, and His words are a beautiful promise we can cling to:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

*neither are your ways My ways,'
declares the Lord.
'As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My ways higher than your ways
and My thoughts than your thoughts.
As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is My word that goes out from My mouth:
It will not return to Me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:8–*