

I think that in each and every one of us human being is a longing, a searching for God, which Augustin addresses with the words: Unquiet is my heart 'till it rests in You oh God.

Meaning: that our heart or soul is not at ease until it has made the connection with the divine, until it has reunited with God, until our heart rests in God!

This longing, this desire is sometimes deeply hidden in us but it always surfaces when we get in touch with the Holy, with God, with Christ.

That is the moment when we realize how much we long for that Love ...for that peace that comes with God.

But it also can be a moment when we realize how separated we are from God and that Love!

And that is what happens in the story of Isaiah and Peter. They are so much in the presence of the Holy that they see how separated they are .. how different they are from that Love .. from those miracles.

And so they both utter and speak about their sin .. about what separates them from God. And in both stories their sin .., is dealt with quickly. The angel acts with Isaiah and all that separates him from God is gone.

With Peter Jesus just says: Don't be afraid. And it is as if we can almost hear Jesus saying: I will be with you!

And now they are both ready:

Isaiah with the words: Here am I Lord, send me!

And Peter without words, leaves everything and follows.

Now this is the short version of what it means to follow God, what it means to follow Christ!

God might be in the habit of dealing with sin quickly, but we do seem to have a problem with that part .. with the term sin .. with, what separates us from God. We very often seem to be stuck in the sin part, and that can have a number o different reasons.

One is our general avoidance of the term:

When I think about the word .. usually what comes to my mind, is a preacher with a raised finger, preaching fire and brimstone ..; thunder and lightening from the pulpit telling me in no uncertain terms that I am a sinful creature .. a wretched nothing and absolutely nothing worth and if I don't repent I surely will go to Hell!

Some preachers have nicer words for this but the fact remains that after such a preaching one feels small, guilty, ashamed and sometimes afraid or angry.

Many of us have stories like this or similar ones in our past and they make us feel bad and they give God a rather bad reputation. So it makes sense that we like to avoid the topic and it makes sense that God got a bad reputation. Who wants to deal with a God that makes you small and worthless and a nothing.

But looking at the stories I can not see God or Jesus doing this in either one of them.

Do not be afraid, is what Jesus says! Now the angel does something that could be construed as punishment ... but I don't think it burned Isaiah's mouth ..

Its almost like God and Jesus wanted to be done with the sin topic as quickly as possible. Wasn't that the purpose of Christ? To be done with the sin topic!

So why are we not done with the sin topic????

I found a bit more of an answer in a poem from Georg Herbert, titled LOVE!

LOVE bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
 Guiltie of dust and sinne.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, 5
 If I lack'd any thing.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
 Love said, you shall be he.
I the unkinde, ungratefull? Ah my deare,
 I cannot look on thee. 10
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
 Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame? 15
 My deare, then I will serve.
You must sit down, sayes Love, and taste my meat:
 So I did sit and eat

Love bade me welcome and my soul drew back.
Too much Love ... unbelievable Love, so much Love in which I see myself,
how I am .. and I don't like what I am seeing, so how can God love me????

And that is the Long Version of the Story:

The story of God showing us without end how much God Loves us, how
much God forgives and how much Christ didn't come to condemn us but to
save us so that one day when Love bids us a welcome our heart can rest in
you oh Lord.