

Isaiah OT651-Essay

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One of the ideas that I was exposed to is that God has a magnet that draws people to him. First, let me explain what it is that does not draw God to us. Sin does not draw us to God. In the Book of Genesis when Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil the bible says they hid from God (Gen. 3:8). Isaiah 59:2 says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear." Does that mean God cannot hear us? No! God hears everything but what Isaiah means is that God will not answer our prayers. He will not respond positively to our request. As we celebrate this Easter Passover how many realize the depth of Jesus Christ's love for us as he took on the sins of all creation? God in his justice refused to come to his *only begotten Son* on the cross because he became sin for us (II Cor. 5:21). Isaiah says, "All we like sheep have gone astray and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). The nature of humanity is rebellion and arrogance. It was passed onto us by our first parents and like the disease Parkinson's, we cannot do anything to stop it. God told the children of Israel that they had been rebellious since he called them (Dt. 9:24). Oswalt says there are two kinds of rebels, *good rebels*, and *bad rebels* (Oswalt. 698). He states: "These are not people who merely have to have their own way and refuse to be bound by any strictures except their own. They are simply looking for a better way.

The bad rebels are not looking for a better way. They do not care about the condition of others. They merely want their own way, no matter what it may cost or what it may destroy (Oswalt. 698). People who are arrogant feel no need to be compassionate to others. People who have power, success, and position often are insensitive to the needs of those around them. Self-made men and women who are arrogant feel like they have pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps. As though they never had any help along the way. However, God has a magnet that draws people to him, and it's called humility. If there's ever a time the church needs humility it's now. Humility always focuses on the needs of others rather than oneself. I like what Oswalt says, "Humility, the self-forgetfulness that arises from a deep sense of worth and security, is the key to it all. Others may get the praise and the perks for a while, but the truly humble know that in the end, those are not the things that matter." (Oswalt. 699). It was Jesus that humbled himself and washed his disciples' feet as they ate their last Passover meal. Paul sums up this reality in Philippians 2:5-9, "5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to [the point of] death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,". May we learn that the path to God is down and not up. When

Moses came into God's presence God told him to take off his shoes because he was on holy ground (Exo. 3:5).