

WEEK OF JANUARY 22ND

The Soul of Desire

*"For in him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell."*

Colossians 1:19



READ: COLOSSIANS 1:9-23

What word, image, or phrase sticks out to you from today's passage?

Draw about it or write a response to God using the space below.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

In *The Soul of Desire*, Dr. Curt Thompson notes, "Beauty emerges in the context in which we, like our God, are willing to be naked, entering into the risky endeavor of new creation." When you think about creating something of beauty, or seeing the beauty within yourself, does anything about that feel dangerous or vulnerable? What words come to mind when you consider it?

This week's passage illuminates the beauty of Christ whose earthly life was marked by a myriad of moments that most would not regard as "beautiful." From a stable birth, to the fleeing of genocide, interactions with lepers, to the torture and humiliation of death on a cross. What does God's choice to dwell in the broken and rejected body of Christ tell us about our own life's capacity to be made beautiful?

Curt Thompson writes

"You may still be finding it challenging to imagine your own life in the way I am describing. Your story of loneliness, of sexual abuse, of addiction, of having to be the one in your family who always kept the peace.. Of being the perfect one, of being the outcast, of being whatever role shame and trauma has had you playing in order to regulate your affect, to keep yourself from screaming at the darkness that shrouds you like so much volcanic ash. But as we continue together, I believe, you will begin to awaken to new creation in your life."

Is there a moment or season in your life that challenges your belief that God can and will create something beautiful in and through you? Write about it using the space below or in a journal. Include any specific questions that you might have for God about these events.

PRACTICE OF THE WEEK:

The Examen.

The Prayer of Examen is a helpful way to end the day in a spirit of examination. Allocate some time each night this week, either before bed or at the dinner table with family or friends, reviewing the moments that made up the last twenty four hours.

Of your day - What was beautiful? What was not beautiful?

For the moments of beauty, write or voice a word or phrase giving thanks.

For the moments that did not feel beautiful, submit them to God in prayer, asking God to reveal anything beautiful in the periphery of this moment. Close with some time in silence, releasing these moments into the hands of God in trust.