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A Dirty Resurrection Story

Honestly, what can you think of that is lower than DIRT? Think of dirt and how we treat it and speak of it for the most part. We walk on dirt. We kick dirt. We spit on dirt. We stomp on dirt. We don't want to get dirty. We clean up dirt in our homes, off our cars and clothes, and try to get rid of the dirty stuff as often as we can.

Seriously, can you think of many things perceived to be lower than dirt?

"You dirty dog" we say to someone who has tricked us or acted deceitfully. "You can't watch that, it's dirty!" we say, almost always referring to something sexually inappropriate. "Quit using those dirty words!" some parents say as they pour dish soap in their children mouths (yes, this actually happened to me and my brothers back in the day, and probably some of you, too! Remember that dirty and unclean discipline?!) Comedians put down senior citizens, speaking of them as being "as old as dirt!"

Even when speaking theologically about our human frailty and sin, we will point to scriptures that demonstrate how we are nothing but dust and dirt; referring to how weak and useless dirt seems to be.

Good Grief! I know that the Good Book says that everything the Triune God made was good and very good, but Dirt cannot seem to get any respect!

That is, until we come to know Who Jesus is! And begin to appreciate Him in the power of His Resurrection! That is where the Reality and Message of the Gospel kicks in and blows us away more jaw-gapingly than a Tornado kickin' up Oklahoma Dirt!

To say the name of Jesus is to not only say the Son of God, but to say the Son of God as MAN; AS THE FULLY MAN! Or, should I really say (along with the Church patriarchs), the Son of God as DIRT; the FULLY DIRT! To say the name of Jesus is also to say that in the Incarnate, Crucified, Resurrected and Ascended Man (DIRT!), DIRT has now become a part of the Eternal Relationship that the Son shares with His Father in the Spirit! (Gen. 2:7, John 1:14, 1 Tim. 2:5, John 14:20)

And because Jesus is not only THE Man, but THE One Man in whom all of humanity and creation lives, moves and has its being, we can have a more proper, fresh and clean view of dirt (rather than a low down dirty view!) Ha-Ha!

Think of it! When the Father's Son was pleased to become dirt, dirt became dignified, ennobled, authenticated, confirmed and INCLUDED in the Relationship of the Trinity like nobody's business! In fact, dirt became redeemed, reconciled and recycled – NO WAY God was throwing His dirt away!!

When Jesus allowed His human dirt to be spat upon and trounced with nails, thorns and a spear, WITH DIRT he killed forever the thought that dirt is somehow unworthy, dirty, and shameful just because we treat it so!

Even more miraculously, Jesus raised dirt up anew, and undone the dirty deeds done to it by dirty people and the dirty tricks of the enemy!

Don't you just love the irony and paradox of all of this?! I do! And the reason I do is that I am part of the dirt created in the Passion of the Father to be and act like the Dirt Who was to come, but who has instead been one unduly influenced by the dirty deeds of others to think and act dirtier than I should have! As such, I had no power to see and act differently than my alien and dirty ways *apart* from Dirt coming to clean me up and act in my exact place - without getting dirty Himself! Now that Dirt has actually done the dirty deed of cleaning up dirt (and the dirt of dirt FROM WITHIN dirty dirt!), and now that Dirt has Resurrected dirt to a wonderful Dirty future in Himself, I find myself not only grateful to *be* dirt, but I find myself blessed and *wanting* to be dirt forever!! Ha-Ha!

Who would have ever thought a Dirty story could be so uplifting, enlightening, and encouraging?! Who would have ever thought that DIRT could and would be seated in the heavenly places with Christ? What piece of dirt would have ever dreamed that its real life was still somehow hidden in Dirt? NOT you! You're too dirty! Not the Devil! Had he known what Dirt was capable of and that it would be Resurrected, he would have never tried to crucify and kill it!

But the Father, Son, and Spirit could, and did dream about the significance of Dirt, and now the Fullness of the Triune God lives along with all of us in Dirt forever!

Good Gravy! THAT'S the kind of dirty story we need to be sharing at the water cooler and letting our children stay up late to hear!

Now, whenever you *do* start spreading this dirty story around, please do your friends and Jesus a favor and exercise the discipline not to clean it up with your dirty mouth! This story is best received in all its Dirty, Christ-centered, Resurrected Glory!!

~ *Tim Brassell*