

Jim Lutz 20240610 Lecturer Reflection

We are all just rookies. 06.10.2024

Suppose a high-achieving student, who may or may not be a valedictorian, is not giving the oral defense of their doctoral dissertation after their first undergrad. Do you call them an intellectual midget?

If a Heisman winner does not score multiple touchdowns in their first game in the NFL or even in their first year in the league, do you call them athletically deficient?

If a great salesperson moves into a management position based on their performance, but the department they have been placed in charge of does not surpass the previous year but has less production, are they considered a failure?

My guess is you would probably say "no".

So that brings up the real issue. When people are new to their faith and do not have an encyclopedic memory of the history of theology, but are excited and passionate about their faith, why is the initial instinct to belittle them for lack of knowledge or experience?

Are the persons criticizing, that brilliant or are they insecure and want to hide their faults by "exposing" faults of others.

God does not worry about the mistakes we made or will continue to make; He already knows about them.

He is not focusing on faults but giving us an opportunity to overcome when we face setbacks and He is the first one we hear saying, "I am proud of you, and I love you."

He does not have a scorecard to tally our "points." That is a manmade concept so we can compare ourselves to others.

He focuses on His love and grace for us. He does not expect us to know it all or even a small percentage of information.

God is the professor who does not worry about tenure. He focuses on guiding us to successfully passing through this life, to spend eternity with Him by focusing on His love and our desire to share His love.

It is not that complicated that any of us should feel ill-equipped.

Mark Twain once said, "It is not the stuff I do not understand in the bible which scares me. It is the stuff I do understand that scares me."

By now you may be asking, "When can I learn what I need and be considered an expert and no longer a rookie?"

I do not know as it has never happened.

But that is just my thoughts and what do I know, I'm a rookie.

Vivat Jesus