

Atlas & The Puppet

by Jordan Meirose

Wednesday night after church, I hadn't been home for more than half an hour since 10 a.m., so I was watching a short episode of a show on Netflix and that's when my Dad came into the room and told me to move my car from the side of the house to the front of it. Now, usually this would not have bothered me at all, but as school approaches for me I can't stop thinking about everyone having some sort of expectation of me. I'm expected to do well in school, I need to write an article for the bulletin, I have an eagle project that has to be finished, and now I need to move my car! I went out and started up the car and I was fuming and stressed about all this stuff. After I parked the car where it needed to be, I even thought God was pushing me to do all kinds of stuff too.

Now, before I go any further I want to state that I'm sure we all have plenty of moments in our lives where we feel the same way. Sometimes it seems you're a puppet and everyone else is holding a string. Maybe you feel like Atlas and the weight of the world is on your shoulders.

Anyway, it was at this moment I looked up at the stars, as is my habit when I have a hard time thinking straight, and realized how much I ask of God on a daily basis. Then I multiplied my problems by just about 7 billion and then put God's day planner into perspective (Matthew 6: 25-34). I kept my gaze at the innumerable stars and thought to myself "Wow! I feel pretty pitiful right now." Then my mind fell on Jesus and I imagined him sitting under an olive tree, kneeling by a rock, crying and praying. I saw Him teaching, debating, loving, and healing the lame, sick, blind, deaf, and leprous, from sun up to sun down three years in a row. He had really felt all the stress and pain we go through and came out on top (John 16:33). My jaw dropped as I stood there. My problems are small, my cares are few, and I can grumble and complain all I want as long as the job gets done right. However, God takes all our troubles and tidbits and loves us all the same (1 Peter 5:7). How can I even think he asks much out of me?

We should all learn that lesson well and take some time out of our "busy" or "stressful" lives just to thank God, if only for a second or two. I hope this little thought could help calm a mind or two just like it did mine (Luke 12:22-29).

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