

The Shack

An Interpretive Review by Pastor Luke Biggs

April 15, 22, 29, 2009

Unit 2

I. Central Characters – “Mac & God”

A. Mac: two key roles:

- Invitation to wrestle with God!
 - ✓ He has experienced tremendous dysfunction in F.O. and is deeply scarred.
 - ✓ He is flawed.
 - ✓ He hides his sin!
- Raises the question: “What is God going to do?”

II. Central Plot: Tragedy

- The question raised: “What do Christians do when life hands us... injustice, tragedy, violence, horror, darkness, pain?”
 - ✓ Dismissal of God!
 - ✓ Anger at God.
 - ✓ Judgment of God.
 - ✓ Withdrawal.
 - ✓ Cursing of God.
 - ✓ Depression
- Question: “What is Mac’s response?”

III. Central Plot: God’s Move

- God Pursues!
- An Invitation
 - ✓ Relationally
 - ✓ Invitationally: Freedom to reject
- Special Note on Freedom of Will:
 - ✓ Relative to the reception/creation of Faith = NO!
 - ✓ Relative to rejection = YES!

IV. Central Plot: Meeting Papa

- Entering the Shack: God in a box!

V. Central Plot: The Trinity

- A Primer on The Trinity
- The Bible teaches strict monotheism.
- In the undivided and indivisible essence of God, there are three distinct persons.
- Each person of the Trinity is FULLY God!
- There is no subordinate of one person to the other, but three persons of equal rank and majesty.
- The primary works of God (Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification) are ascribed to the specific persons of the Trinity. Yet, it is proper to suggest that all persons concur in each primary work.
- Strong Points
 - ✓ Emphasis in relationship.
 - ✓ Emphasis in care.
 - ✓ Emphasis in idea/ideal of equality and mutual submission.
- One Bias/Problem
 - ✓ Suspicion: Author has experienced conflict in/with the institutional church.
 - ✓ Confusion over God's desire for mutual submission and man's ability to achieve.
 - ✓ Misses Point: It is because of our fallen nature God has established institutions.
 - ✓ Within these, there will always be abuses.

VI. Conclusion