



CHAPLAIN CHAT



Beautiful Garbage

I happened upon a website featuring sculptures made out of old toys, plastic spoons, typewriters, soda cans, and even hangers. In an introduction to these garbage-turned-artwork pieces, Vitaly Friedman wrote this about the artists: “These talented individuals see possibility in the things we throw away every day. Instead of heading to the art supply store they just collect common trash and turn it into works of amazing art.”

The website brought to mind several conversations I’ve had over the last few years with people in different ministry contexts. Pastors and college students, the elderly and the young, have confided in me that they feel worthless—as if they have made an irredeemable mess of their lives. I too have experienced days of discouragement when I’ve questioned life’s meaning and purpose. I have also wondered if God could do anything with the garbagelike mess I’ve created.

Genesis 1:2 tells us, “The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.” God created our beautiful earth out of nothing, out of what was “formless and empty.” If God can create such beauty out of nothing, and if He can inspire artists to create artwork out of garbage, can’t He make amazing works of art out of our lives?

Marlena Graves OUR DAILY JOURNEY
