

Whitney Houston's Pain

The late Whitney Houston – singer, actress, producer and model – did an interview with Diane Sawyer in 2002. In it, she discussed the pain and frustration she experienced in her failed comeback attempt.

At one point in the interview, she turned to Sawyer and asked, “Have you ever heard the sound of 10,000 people disappointed in you?”

Hailed as one of the greatest vocalists of all time, Houston once stood atop the music industry as the unchallenged queen of pop. The greatness of her talent was met by an equally magnanimous outpouring of love from millions of fans the world over. But when her abuse of drugs and other related habits finally robbed her of that golden voice, the cheers turned to jeers.

She had risen to the pinnacle of admiration like few others, only to have it all melt away as soon as her flaws were revealed. The rejection left her confidence wavering from the resonating sound of her fans' disapproval. Even so, in that same interview, Houston declared emphatically, “I know this – *Jesus* loves me!”

It was a declaration she would assert repeatedly, even at the occasion of her final public appearance the night before she died.

Despite her flaws and self-doubt, there was one thing she did not question: the love of Jesus. What a critical realization, one which highlights the important decision between the love of the world and the love of God. The former is fickle and fleeting; the latter is sure and eternal.

If an adored star like Whitney Houston could suffer the pain of this world's fickle love, don't think it won't treat you and me the same – or worse.

It is human nature for us to try to conceal our flaws – and we all have them – if we hope to hang on to the love and respect of this world. But not so with the love of God! He knows our flaws, our weaknesses and our sins, and He loves us still.

And that assurance is comforting indeed.

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him (1 John 4:16 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter

