



奧克蘭華人長老會 AUCKLAND CHINESE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sermon Summary - 16 May 2021

Genesis # 1: Life by Design - Genesis 2:18-25 (Andrew Cox)

Modern day slavery. Where does the impulse for ethical spending come from? It comes from _____(1) - in the belief that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. This is one of the truths we mentioned last week - along with that most basic of truths: In the beginning God created the heavens.

Chapter 2 is the account of Adam and Eve. For more information on the historicity of Adam and Eve, check out our "side-series" on Genesis and Science over the next couple of weeks.

What do we know about the Garden of Eden? See the description in Gen 2:8-17. So Eden was a real place, apparently. It was a place of sustenance, work and testing.

The Two Trees

What was the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? John Walton, in his book, *The Lost World of Adam and Eve*, suggests that Adam and Eve were mortal - made from the dust of the earth but they were also spiritual beings - and the Tree of Life continued to prolong their life as long as they ate from it. They were _____(2) - they could choose obedience or disobedience. But until they disobeyed, they didn't have the experiential knowledge of evil.

A Helper

Verse 18: The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a _____(3) suitable for him.'

The word _____(3) is mainly used of God in Scripture. For example, Psalm 121:1-2. The man and the woman are equal.

Before Adam receives his much-needed companion, God gives him a task: naming the animals. Then it is time to bring Eve on to the scene.

"Eve was not taken out of Adam's head to top him, neither out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected by him, and near his heart to be loved by him." - Matthew Henry

Woah man!

Adam's response is one of _____ and _____(4) 23-25). This is a powerful picture of marriage, sex and oneness. God's plan for marriage is a beautiful one - and the basis for a stable and prosperous society.

How can we affirm marriage and family while still accepting and loving people who think differently to us? By having _____(5) about what we believe then not just talking about it but living it out. Jesus is the best example (of course!) He was more concerned about religious hypocrisy than correcting the behaviour of the non-religious. He never looked down on those who didn't know any better. And people were drawn to him because he _____(6) them. May we do the same.

Questions

(You will need to refer to the summary above to answer these questions.)

1. If you realised that a product you buy has a proven “slavery component”, would you continue to buy it? Why / why not? Why is our understanding of being made in the image of God so important?
2. What do you learn about the Garden of Eden in 2:8-17? How was it a place of provision, work and testing?
3. What’s your understanding of the two trees? Why did God place the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden?
4. Read Psalm 121:1-2. How does “help” in this passage guide our understanding of “helper” in Gen 2:18 (same Hebrew word)? Do you believe there is a hierarchy in relationships between men and women? Why / why not?
5. Read Gen 2:23-25. What principles of marriage and relationships do you see here? Why is marriage such a good thing for society as a whole? How can we affirm marriage and family today without alienating certain groups of people?
6. Spend some time praying for good family relationships among the people you know.

Answers to blanks

(1) Genesis (2) moral agents (3) helper (4) joy / acceptance (5) convictions (6) loved