

Genesis 1:27

“God of Wonder”

This last week in our Disciple I Bible study we were talking about all God did during creation. We talked about how the Bible is not a scientific document. The Bible is God’s story for God’s people. The Bible seeks to answer the questions of Who created everything and Why. What we discovered is throughout Scripture whenever human beings stop long enough to consider all that God has done, and all that God is continuing to do our Human response is always, always wrapped in wonder and praise.

Since the beginning of time humanity has looked up to the heavens and wondered. We have wondered, “What are the stars, and how did they get up there?” We have wondered, “How do crops grow?” Why do some trees bear fruit?” Humanity has wondered about all of these things and when it comes to who made us and everything we need to survive the answer has always been God. When we ask the question, Why did God do all of this? The answer is because God loves us. When we think about all science has to tell us about the age of rocks, and the distance in light years between stars and galaxies what is humanity that God should pause to give thought to us? We are barely specks of dust, and yet God sent God’s only Son to die for us. (pause) Now we had something to wonder about Wednesday night.

We started with the question, “What does it mean to wonder?” According to Google the verb “to wonder,” can be used two different ways. The first definition of wonder is to, “desire or be curious to know something.” The second definition of wonder is to, “feel admiration, and amazement, marvel.” So let’s talk about our God of wonder.

Church, how many days did it take God to create everything? (6 days) Alright. Six days. Were those six 24 hour days? (yes) Okay, so God made the earth and everything in six days. (pause) Well then, I think I need to tell y’all a joke. I’m not sure where the joke came from, but it’s pretty good. A little boy walks up to God and asks, “God, how long is a billion years to you?” God says, “About a second.” The little boy asks, “God, how much is a quadrillion dollars to you?” God says, “About a penny.” The little boy asks, “God, can I have a penny?” God says, “Sure. Just gimme a sec.” (pause) When it comes to the way time is laid out in the Bible not everything is as it seems. Genesis chapter one is one of those places in Scripture. The description of time in the Bible can give us something to wonder about.

When it comes to the first chapter of Genesis Jewish people wonder about Christians. Many of us take the Genesis chapter one as historical fact. However, the Jews, who have lived with and loved these Scriptures for thousands of years, know this Scripture is not history. The Bible does record history; however, Genesis chapter one is not history. Genesis chapter one is poetry. Genesis chapter one is Hebrew poetry. The purpose of the poem is not to give a recipe for how God made creation. The purpose of Genesis chapter one is to give honor and praise to the one who created everything because God loves us. Look back over Genesis one. There is a set pattern and it repeats. God said it. (pause) What God said happened. (pause) God saw to it, what happened was good. (pause) That was day one. Then this pattern repeats day after day. God said it. What God said happened. God saw to it, what happened was good. This is beautiful. It tells us about God’s character and God’s authority. God is God and we are not. God created everything by simply saying the words, “Let there be...” (pause) you name it; and it was. We should never wonder about God’s authority. God speaks and it happens. There shouldn’t be any wonder expects the same from us because God loves us.

Here this, at a time in history where there were no days off, and the Jewish people were all slaves in Egypt, God gave the people the first regularly scheduled day off – **EVER!** God called it Sabbath, and that means, “rest.” Then in the Ten Commandments God tells the people if they want to be God’s people they will keep

the Sabbath, and make it holy. My sisters and brothers, who are we that God, the creator of all creation should care enough about humanity to give us rest from all our labors. Talk about wonder of wonders.

Our God is truly the God of wonders. God created the light of life. God separated the waters above from the waters below. God created every plant, tree and shrub. God created the sun, moon and stars. God created the fish, the birds, the beasts and all things that creep. Then wonder of wonders God created human beings and God made us in God's image. Now I don't know about you, but I have seen people get down on themselves. I have had people tell me how worthless they are. When I encounter people behaving in these ways I try to remember the words from C.S. Lewis', "Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew." You come from the Lord Adam and the Lady Eve. That is honor enough to raise the head of the poorest beggar and shame enough to bow the head of the proudest king. My brothers and sisters shouldn't we be content in the wonder of God's creation and our place in God's creation? (pause) Shouldn't the real wonder be the freedoms God has given to God's people?

Let's wonder together for a moment. No other creature was made in God's image. Humanity alone can choose whether or not to be obedient to God. When God created us God saw to it we were good. Humanity alone had the choice to stay that way just as God made choices in creation. God created everything out of nothing. Humanity also creates in the way we bear children; in the ways we choose to offer devotion, honor and praise to God. Humanity chooses whether to offer care and support for one another. We were created in God's image in that like Christ we were created without sin in the full power and blessing of God's Holy Spirit to do the work God entrusted to humanity. Think about this for a minute. God already knew we were gonna mess up, and wonder of wonders God made us in God's image anyway.

The other wonder is God created humanity to have dominion over the earth, the sky and the sea. God put Adam in the Garden of Eden to till and keep the garden. God is the author and authority over creation and God chose to create humanity to have dominion over creation. Our dominion over creation – if done well begins and ends by bending the knee to the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Our ability to govern the earth as wise stewards begins with love of God and love of neighbor. The task is to love God and love others as God loves us. We are to care enough about one another so all of creation continues to be fit for living, for growing, for raising children, and for generations to come. Aint is something – a real wonder, that God would create us knowing we would Fall and yet God still gave us the responsibility of dominion over all the earth. (pause) I take that to mean God has faith in us. Brothers and sisters, how much faith do we have in one another?

Sisters and brothers the wonders of God's creation are without question, beyond words. God's faith in humanity to be good stewards of God's creation is more than a little crazy. How will we choose to live into that sense of purpose, drive and direction? How will we live our lives so as to be a wonder to others? What might it look like to live our lives so devoted to God and full of God's love for one another that people are amazed at how God is at work in us? Brothers and sisters, please do one thing this week. This week make it a point to give someone a reason to wonder about the positive things God is doing in your life this week.

In Jesus' name,
Amen