

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Texts: Gen 2:18-24; Mark 10:2-16
Preacher: The Rev. R. Bruce Todd

St. Peter's - Lafayette Hill, PA.
October 4, 2009
Worldwide Communion

“What Would God Say?”

Okay, I know I've told this to several of you privately, but it's the perfect joke for today's lesson from Genesis about the creation of Adam and Eve. It's about the conversation Eve is having with God. God says, “I see how you are struggling in the Garden of Eden and decided you need a helper. I'm going to create you a helper. We'll call him Man. But one thing - he's going to have a really big ego so we'll have to make him think he was created first. It's something we'll keep between the two of us women.

Today's lesson from Genesis is the one where God created man first. By the way, in Genesis 1 Man and woman are created at the same time - together. But in Genesis two, God causes a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and takes his rib to create a Woman. Another thing in Genesis 1 is that everything is good. On the 1st day God created Light - and it was Good. The 2nd day - God separated the heavens from the earth, and it was Good. The 3rd day - Dry Land, and it was Good. God kept creating up until the 7th day, and it was Good. Everything was Good until Genesis two. Today's lesson, the opening verse: Then the Lord God said, “It is NOT GOOD that man should be alone.” So God created the cattle, and the birds of the air, and the animals of the field, and man named all of them. And finally God created the female and she was called Woman. I can just imagine one of the first conversations Eve might have had with Adam. She'd asked, “Adam, do you love me?” His response was, “Who else?”

Compared to Genesis one, Genesis 2 is far less concerned with creative order and far more concerned with revealing the creation of something more than birds and trees and creatures that creep and swim. Genesis 2 is about the creation of relationships. The relationship between other earthly creatures, and the relationship between human beings. The relationship between men and women. The relationship between God and humanity.

Most people think Genesis two is a Creation Story. But Genesis two is really a relationship story. God has Adam building relationships with the animals as he names them and then with the Woman. In fact-God has us in Relationship with all of Creation. God even has creation in relationship with itself. This time of year we see the leaves die and fall to the ground. These leaves then decompose and put nutrients into the soil which then nourish it for new growth in the spring. Left to the order of creation things would work perfectly. But we rake the leaves and burn them or dispose of them. Then what do we do in the Spring? We go out and get mulch which decomposes, holds water and puts nutrients back into the soil. Rain falls, fills lakes and streams, then evaporates, it forms clouds which then rains and the cycle continues. But we divert streams, build dams, use concrete and asphalt which stops evaporation. We destroy our ozone layer which allows more heat and radiation to reach the surface of the earth. This had been blamed for global warming.