

Sermon Starter – The Goodness of Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3

This text lends itself to the “four-page sermon.” The first page explores the trouble in the text. It comes in the form of a break in the poetic rhythm in verses 11-13. Early readers of this text would have noticed how this view of creation was opposite to the popular view that the fertility gods activated the seeds and created fruitfulness.

The second page explores the problem in the world. What would it mean for us to stop and observe, taking our hands off the controls and witnessing the beauty and power of creation? What spiritual gain might we receive by stopping our words and using other senses to engage with creation? What needs to change in order for us to engage with creation without measuring how to acquire the thing we are looking at? When we say yes to God we are saying no to something. What are the things we have trouble letting go of?

The third page explores the grace in the text. God perceives the goodness of creation. This is not just noticing God’s *act* in creating colors and shapes, but we hear God’s internal response.

The fourth page explores the grace in the world. The good news is that God continues to act and be present in all creation. There was a point when God stopped and rested. In our culture we have trouble knowing when enough is enough, when we need to stop. What are the things we need to stop doing/ acquiring/consuming in order to rest? How does Sabbath-keeping help us with our need to control?

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