

Sermon Starter – Serve and Observe Creation

Genesis 2:4-19

Genesis 2 invites humans to “till and keep” the garden (v. 15). Bible scholar Ellen Davis points out that these two words are not agricultural terms but worship terms. A closer reading would translate them as “serve and observe.” What would it mean to serve the garden? What would that look like? How do we share power with other parts of creation?

Names identify and describe people and things. Asking someone’s name is the first thing we do when building a relationship. What was behind God asking Adam to name the animals? If by naming the animals we are partnering with God in creation, how do we continue to be co-creators with God? What is the significance of names? What names/labels do we put on people, and how can we change inappropriate or hurtful labels that have been placed on us or we have placed on others? Why do we end our prayers “In the name of Jesus”?

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