

9/2/2018

“Planting Sunday: Good Beginnings”

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-13; 2:15; John 1:1-3 (NIV)

Series: Season of Creation

Theme: All of creation has its beginning of God and through God.

John 1:1-3 (NIV) says . . .

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Although we don't usually think of September as a month or season of planting, I want to use this as a time to consider and appreciate creation, as suggested by the United Methodist Discipleship Ministries and others. In doing so, we begin with planting and the act of creation itself.

Genesis 1:1-13 says . . .

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

Notice how God saw all that God had made, and that it was good. All of creation was good! Everything created had good beginnings. I'm not going to read the other three days of creation to you this morning, or consider whether or not these verses should be taken literally.

Let me skip to Genesis chapter 2, which offers another account of creation, which says a bit more about human beings.

Genesis 2:15 says . . .

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

In other words . . .

† **Human beings were created to be in relationship with God and all of creation.**

As Genesis says, we were given “dominion” or governance over creation. And, we were given stewardship or care of creation.

One of the things I always enjoy doing wherever I’ve lived is taking care of the lawn, grounds, gardens, shrubs and trees. There’s just something about it; a sense of satisfaction in being part of God’s creation and tending to its beauty, care, design, and even restriction, if needed.



Yes, it can be demanding, challenging, sweaty, and even painful at times. But, the rewards always seem worth it. I’ve got plenty of stories to tell. And, I’m sure many of you do as well.

Our care of creation often begins with planting . . . a time of new beginnings. The ground is usually prepared, the seeds or bulbs are scattered or carefully placed, and often the ground is covered with a protective layer of natural elements.

As the seeds or bulbs are hidden beneath the ground, we don't see their growth and development. But, as they are protected and nurtured by fertile soil and by the rains and even the snow, they will take root and grow. They will rise up and spring forth in season!

So it is with our own growth. We are given good or new beginnings by the One who created us. We are planted and nurtured in love, truth, and wisdom, so that in due season we will rise up and blossom. We will bear the good fruit of our faith.

I invite you to join with me as we begin a new season of life in Christ this month.

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Questions for Reflection:

How do you see yourself as part of God's creation?

How do you see yourself in relationship to other creation?