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| Psalm 8  Genesis 1:27-28 | Harvest Festival  Who is watching the Garden? | Pinelands – 9am – 29/01/2023  Thornton – 10:30am – 29/01/2023 |

**Imagine if you will…** that **you own** a beautiful and lavish home

***Your dream home…*** A home that…

* you had *designed* and built yourself.
* *supervised* everything
* *Chose* the cabinets and the flooring
* Chose the *colours…*
* *Landscaped* and maintained the gardens

**And** you truly loved your home…

I don’t know if there is a home as loved…

as the one you actually have a hand in building.

**But the day comes** that you decide you have to ***“DOWN SCALE”***

But you cannot sell your house,

So you decide to become a **LANDLORD.**

So you decide **to rent out** your beautiful home.

**You find a tenant**, you check their references,

discuss the terms of the lease,

get your damage deposit

and ***sign the lease***.

As you are leave you tell the tenant, ***“Enjoy”.***

After a number of years the time comes… for your tenant is moving **OUT**

So you come back to your house… *(Inspection)*

**…AND** you can’t believe your eyes,

your beautiful lavish home has been trashed *(literally)*

there is rubbish all over the place*… (lawn)*

the front door struggles to open and close,

The hardwood floor is gouged and scratched,

from the multiple cigarette burns…

it looks like it has been used as an ash tray

They promised they did not smoke

**You go in** and can’t believe what has happened to the house…

that you had designed and built with so much care.

There are cracks in the walls,

Fittings and fixtures were loose

The house smelled… Stuffy and Damp.

**You know in your heart of hearts…**

**that your home will never be the same again!**

***In anger*** you confront your tenant and they look at you…

blankly and say…

*“I was paying rent so I assumed I could do what I*

*wanted. After all, wasn’t it mine as longer as I*

*was paying you to live there?”*

**You** start to sputter, your eyes bulge out and…

homicidal thoughts race through your mind.

You reach out to place your fingers around the neck

of this inconsiderate lout when they say

*“But hey, you can keep the damage deposit.”*

And they walk away whistling.

***HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?***

They had always paid their rent on time…

They had seemed to be good tenant.

**BUT…** Did they have the right to do whatever they wanted to

while they lived in your home?

**OF COURSE NOT**. There was a certain understanding…

either written or implied that they were not to intentionally

damage your home and were to return it to you in close to

the same condition that they had received it.

**SO…** **what is our *RESPONSIBILITY* to God and the world…**

That he has allowed us to occupy.

**How do you think God feels when he sees the world?**

***Power Point slide show*** – *Harvest Festival*

Read ***Genesis 1:27-28*** We read:

*“So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said,*

*"Have many children, so that your descendants will live all*

*over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting*

*you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.”*

**In those two verses** **humanity became tenants…**

in the beautiful home that God has created.

And let us remember…

***“With great power comes great responsibility”.***

No matter how we approach the world we live in…

**From an…** *Eco-Theological* perspective…

- ecology become our god

**Or an…** *Absolute Dominion* perspective

- We can do what we want with

The earth’s resources

**Or a…** *Creation Care* perspective

- Creation is equal to humanity

**Or a…**  *Global Stewardship* perspective

- What I think is the most biblical

response

**The bottom line is…**

**We are the TENANTS in this beautiful world God has created.**

**SO** we are not only in charge of our environment but…

have a responsibility to respect it, Treasure it, Care for it.

**Carl Henry** observed:

*“Scripture does not set forth specific lines of ecological*

*action, which may vary with time and place. But it*

*does adduce fixed principles that indicate that God*

*was not content to create a chaotic wasteland but*

*rather a habitable universe and that he expects his*

*designated stewards to maintain it that way.”*

Let’s go back to **Genesis 1:27-28**

*“So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said,*

*"Have many children, so that your descendants will live all*

*over the earth and* **bring it under their control***. I am putting*

*you* **in charge of** *the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.”*

**KJV + NIV** - *“have dominion over”*

**NLT**  - *“reign over”*

***WE…*** Humanity **is not just** another part of creation –

*- we are unique & special,* *(Psalm 8:5-9)*

*- made in the image of God (imago dei)*

**We are the TENANTS in this beautiful world God has created.**

Therefore we have a **RESPONSIBILITY TO…**

Care for it, Maintain it,

Look after it, Manage it,

**Albert Einstein said…**

*“It is every person’s obligation to put back into the world*

*at least the equivalent of what they take out of it.”*

**Time and time again in the** **New Testament…**

Jesus tells us **parables of servants** who were…

trusted with *money, talents and properties,*

They acted foolishly and wasted that with which

they were entrusted…

and in each case they were **condemn.**

**Not excused…**

**Not commended…** **BUT…**

**CONDEMNED…** for not doing their best…

with what they were given by their master.

**ARE YOU DOING YOUR BEST?**

Recycling Waste, *(Pinelands)*

Saving Water, *(I still take two minute showers)*

**Are you doing your best to…**

Care for, Maintain, Manage,

**AND** Look after the environment?

**Genesis 1:27-28 The Message**

***God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image,***

***make them reflecting our nature***

***So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,***

***the birds in the air, the cattle,***

***And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that***

***moves on the face of Earth.”***

***God created human beings;***

***he created them godlike,***

***Reflecting God’s nature.***

***He created them male and female.***

***God blessed them:***

***“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!***

***Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,***

***for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”***

***Remember this…***

The way we care for the environment **reflects**

Our relationship with God…

we are **His stewards… and tenants**

**of this beautiful home that God has created.**

**Psalm 8** God's Glory and Human Dignity

O Lord, our Lord,

your greatness is seen in all the world!

Your praise reaches up to the heavens;

it is sung by children and babies.

You are safe and secure from all your enemies;

you stop anyone who opposes you.

When I look at the sky, which you have made,

at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places—

what are human beings, that you think of them;

mere mortals, that you care for them?

Yet you made them inferior only to yourself;

you crowned them with glory and honour.

You appointed them rulers over everything you made;

you placed them over all creation:

sheep and cattle, and the wild animals too;

the birds and the fish and the creatures in the seas.

O Lord, our Lord,

your greatness is seen in all the world!

**Genesis 1:27-28**

So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.