

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Caring For All Creation

Psalm 8

*O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.*

² *Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.*

³ *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals, that you care for them?*

⁵ *Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.*

⁶ *You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,
⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,*

⁸ *the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

⁹ *O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Remember that time Jesus got in trouble with religious leaders for healing on the Sabbath? It happened in the book of Luke, chapter 13, verses 10-17. When the religious leaders took Jesus to task over it, he called them hypocrites and then reminded them (and all listening) that if one of their work animals was suffering at any time, they would save or rescue it. So why not a woman? So why not a human who is suffering?

And so we turn to our situation today, where our classical worship and reading of scripture would remind us to care for all creation. And if this was a normal Sunday, I would probably have passionately preached that God's creation (including us) are worthy and needful of our continued protection, support, and activism to ensure these treasures be passed to God's future children.

But these are not typical days. And I would be remiss to read these scriptures for creation first if I didn't name that our larger society has been taken to task by Jesus.

We should always be involved in creation care. Caring for our world is caring for our sister and brother, neighbor and alien alike. But this year, in particular, we find ourselves caught like the Pharisees and other religious leaders, having said that certain humans in our communities should be treated with less respect and care than our own pets and livestock. And so we've had to be reminded that BLACK LIVES MATTER and our systems of care were mal-created to omit people Jesus called our neighbor and God calls fellow children.

I cannot offer direction on creation care if it doesn't include awareness of the suffering experienced by others in our communities. And while the woman of Jesus' time was crippled with an ill spirit for 18 years, how long then have our own sisters and brothers suffered while being overlooked by our practices and behaviors?

This week, will you please pray with me for direction in our congregational leadership for the ONE STEP we can take as a congregation to learn or practice better behavior towards our brothers and sisters who are crying out. Jesus noticed them and put them above the things that make our jobs and regular lives go forward. Let us copy his own actions with our own and notice and respond to the lives of people of color around us. Please join me in this prayer each day for a week.

**Lord, help us care for ALL of your Creation.
Help us to notice your incredible expression of creative love
that puts hearts and blood in all types and colors and expressions of people around us.
Lead us and our congregational leadership this week in noticing the needs of others,
especially those we've learned to overlook.
Help move our hearts and bodies to practices leading us closer to
brothers and sisters who have suffered from neglect,
especially in our larger family of many colors. We beg this in your name, Amen.**

Pastor Brian

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