

## Intro

- Series= Gospel Story, Exploring the true Gospel
- Last Week= What is the Gospel
  - Learned that the Gospel includes the whole book, not just the NT or just the Gospels
  - Learned that Jesus is the Gospel
  - Learned that we need to be people of the Gospel
- This Week= Gospel in the Beginning

## Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- Let me draw the picture for you
- The world is a cosmic temple
  - The solar system is a huge thing
  - 1 Corinthians 15:40-41 **40** There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the splendor of the heavenly bodies is of one degree, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is of another. **41** The sun has one degree of splendor, the moon another, and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.
  - Louie Giglio the Star Maker YouTube
    - If the earth was the size of a golf ball the sun would be 15 feet in diameter
    - Largest Star scientist have discovered= Canis Majores ('Big Dog Star'-Louie Giglio), if the earth was a golf ball it would be as tall as Mt. Everest= 6 miles above sea level
  - Jody talks about going online and looking at the Hubble Telescope
  - The world= God's Temple
  - So here at the end of Chapter One in Genesis God finishes creation with humans
- Human Beings
  - v. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them
    - Greek word for image is Eikon
    - Created in the likeness of God
    - God bearers
    - God's representative to the world
  - He gives humans the fundamental human assignment
    - v. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
    - Co-rulers with God and as mediators of God's presence in God's cosmic temple
    - Humans responsibility to relate to God, self, others and the world as the co-rulers with God
- What does Be fruitful and multiply mean?
  1. It is a task
    - Be fruitful and multiply is usually thought of as child bearing
    - More to it
    - Be fruitful= in v. 28 fill the earth and **subdue it**
      - humans are to work the ground and grow things and use them for our sustainability
      - It is the task of working the ground and treating it the way God would want us to
      - Agricultural society
    - Multiply
      - We are to reproduce
      - God started with Adam and Eve and he wanted them to fill the earth with more Eikons= God-bearers, to mediate God to the rest of creation

- Fill the earth
  - Rule over other animals
    - dominion over the fish, birds and every living thing
    - Again humans are in charge as co-rulers with God in his cosmic temple as his representatives to the rest of creation
    - Good stewardship of our natural resources and to treat creation with care (Another sermon for another day)
    - We will talk about The Fall next week but that is one thing that we see in that, Adam and Eve was supposed to mediate God to the serpent instead of listening to him
2. It is a blessing
- v. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. . ."
  - It is part of a blessing not a command
  - It is our assignment, but it is a part of God's blessing on Creation
  - Be fruitful and multiply was meant to be a blessing to humans not a command or a curse
    1. God's intention was never for work or child bearing to painful or a toil
      - This passage was written before the Fall
      - God's intention was always for man to work and have kids
      - After the fall, one of the consequences is that work would be a toil and child bearing painful
      - That wasn't the original intention
    2. Children are a blessing not a command or a curse
      - Part of the blessing was to multiply
      - God wanted his Eikons to fill the earth
      - That doesn't mean everyone are to have children
        - Jesus/Paul
3. It is a privilege
- To be God's representative to Creation is a huge privilege
  - God has entrusted humans to be his representative to the World
    - Elections and public office
    - How much greater is the task of representing God
  - It didn't stop with Adam and Eve, Abraham, David, Jesus, or Paul it continues with us today

#### What does this have to do with the Gospel?

- This is where it all began
- The gospel originated with God creating the world
- Genesis 1:1-3a 1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said
- God the Father, The Spirit, Jesus=The Word (John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.)
- So the Gospel story started with God creating the world then putting man, his Eikons (representatives, God-bearers) in charge to rule over the earth and mediate His presence in it
  - Sin messed that up= next week
- That task still remains today= Being God's representative to the world- that is what we are called to do
  - How are you doing that?
  - In your home?
  - In your workplace?
  - In your community?
  - In your church?