

## The Beloved Creator

(sermon 1 Beloved Series)

May the words of my mouth and the meditations in our hearts be acceptable and suitable in Your sight oh Lord, our rock, our strength and our redeemer. Amen

Last Sunday we heard from God the Father, and his words on the mountain. "This is my son, the beloved, listen to him." This Sunday we hear very similar words once again from God, speaking this time directly to Jesus, his son. "You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." God the creator of all things blesses his son at Holy baptism. Immediately though, the spirit sends Jesus to the wilderness to be tempted

by Satan. And then the story turns back to John being arrested and Jesus proclaiming the good news of God.

I mentioned a few Sundays ago how Mark really gets right to the point, but honestly, even for someone who can appreciate the brevity of Mark's writings, I have to say, this is a bit much in one story. Jesus is baptized by John, immediately Jesus goes to the wilderness and is tempted by Satan, and then John is arrested and Jesus begins to spread the good news throughout Galilee. Now, I thought I could win an award for shortest sermons ever, however, Mark definitely has me beat. I have to stop for a minute to focus. My focus comes once again back to the word Beloved. My

personal Lenten journey involves praying with prayer beads and following Kristen E. Vincent's book entitled

We are Beloved. This week I had an idea to do a sermon series on the Beloved. Now I do apologize, because as most of you know, next Sunday will be my last Sunday with you all, but please let me know if you wish to hear the other sermons and I will get them to Sara. My first sermon in this series today, entitled, Beloved Creator.

I have been reading a lot of the Old Testament lately and have been amazed and pleasantly surprised with many things. We know that in the book of Genesis, it begins, " In the beginning, when God created the

heavens and the earth , the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep." This was described by our teacher for the Old Testament as formless void, meaning chaos, dark, damp and cave like almost. That is all God had to work with in the very beginning of time. The triune God, from the very beginning, breathed life into the chaotic mess before him and from there we read the world, as we know it, began.

Now I spent a lot of time in the book of Job this past week and we know the story of Job. Job is an awesome guy living in the land of Uz with lots and lots of kids, animals and land, and then one day, Job's life takes a

complete turn and Job loses everything. Life for Job gets really, really bad. He even develops sores on his body and is at the point that he wishes he were never born. His so-called friends come and try to help, but really turn out to be more harmful than good for Job and most of the book is spent listening to the cries and complaints of sheer agony and suffering from Job.

There really does get to be a lot of back and forth with Job and Job's friends and just when you think there is no relief for poor Job, God begins to speak. I

found this speech from God to Job so rich and beautiful. Now it is four chapters long, chapters 38-41, with God allowing Job to speak for a whole 2

verses! I have to share, not all 4 chapters, but some of the things God says to Job as he really just needs to put Job in his place. To show Job how awesome and powerful and almighty God really is. God speaks, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements-surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? "

"Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place?"

"What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?"

"Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? "

"Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?"

"Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes its nest on high? "

"Look at the Behemoth, which I made just as I made you; it eats grass like an ox. Its strength is in its loins, and its power in the muscle of its belly. It makes its tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of its thighs are knit

together. Its bones are tubes of bronze, its limbs like bars of iron. It is the first of the great acts of God-only its Maker can approach it with the sword. For the mountains yield food for it where all the wild animals play."

Now, I have only touched briefly on the vast array of things that God has created. But these words from God himself about the world created by God's very own hands. Intimate, tiny details of each and everything made by the Father's hands. Each and every drop of rain, every star in the sky, each grain of sand by the seashore, touched and formed by the Master.

Chaos changed into complete and total order. Each and every molecule in the great cosmos, God's hand has touched.

Now, here is God on the banks of the Jordan with John the Baptist speaking to his one and only Son, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The one who took chaos and formed the universe, the powerful, almighty God who reigns even over the Behemoth, the winds, the light, the darkness, the sun, the moon, the stars and this whole vast wide world as we know it, now blesses his son and tells him he is pleased. Now sends this son to a world that has really made quite a mess of the ordered and organized place

it began as. God gives us his one and only beloved son.

Our Beloved Creator loves us so much, he is willing to send his son to die for us. To make this world a place

where even God's own son calls sinners and tax collectors to come and share a meal with him. God's precious son is here walking, talking and living with ordinary people, being an ordinary person with us.

God's own son bends down to wash the feet of his disciples. God's one and only Beloved son soon will walk a very lonely road to a cross high on a hill. Between two sinners upon a wooden cross meant for torture and shame, God's chosen and loved will hang and suffer as

the crowd yells, "Crucify Him!"

How vast and amazing this world is that we live in. As we see the snow covered mountains, and the bright blue sky. The tiny birds scramble and fly around, the eagle spreads its wings and soars high above the earth, the sun fills the dawning sky with breathless pink and purple, the fields lie crisp and clean and covered in a blanket of snow. Our God is truly an awesome God and you don't need to look far to see that, hear that, know that or feel that. The one who created it all has sent us a very precious and life giving gift in His Beloved. May we remember our Beloved Creator who lavishes and pours out all good things on us. May we cherish

this Beloved one sent to bring eternal life to a broken  
world. Amen