

Summary

This sermon focuses on God's creation and our role as stewards of the earth, drawing from Psalm 104. The pastor emphasizes that creation belongs to God and that as followers of Christ, we are called to be caretakers rather than exploiters of the natural world. The message connects creation care to the gospel, explaining that Jesus' resurrection involves making all things new, including creation itself. The sermon addresses environmental challenges like pollution, climate change, and resource depletion, framing these as justice issues that particularly affect the poor and marginalized. The pastor concludes with six principles for creation care: earth keeping, fruitfulness, Sabbath rest for creation, discipleship in recreation, contentment, and conservancy. Throughout, the message maintains that caring for creation is not separate from the gospel but is an integral part of following Christ and participating in God's work of renewal.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we gather today in gratitude for Your magnificent creation that surrounds us. As we come together to study Your Word and learn from one another, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to see Your world through Your eyes and understand our calling as stewards of all You have made. May Your Spirit guide our discussion and draw us closer to You and to one another. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is your favorite aspect of God's creation (a specific place, season, animal, or natural phenomenon) and what draws you to it?

Key Verses

- Psalm 104:1-35
- Genesis 1:28
- Romans 8:19-21
- Colossians 1:19-20
- Romans 1:20

Questions

- How does viewing the world as 'creation' rather than 'nature' change our perspective on environmental stewardship?
- The pastor mentioned that Abraham Kuyper said there's not a square inch over which Jesus doesn't cry 'This is mine.' How should this truth impact our daily choices regarding creation care?
- What does it mean to have 'dominion' over creation according to the Hebrew word 'rada,' and how is this different from exploitation?
- How does caring for creation connect to the gospel message and Jesus' work of making all things new?
- The sermon described creation as 'groaning' (Romans 8). What are some specific ways you see creation suffering today, and how might we respond?
- Which of the six principles for creation care (earth keeping, fruitfulness, Sabbath, discipleship, contentment, conservancy) resonates most with you and why?
- How can creation care be seen as a justice issue, particularly regarding how environmental problems affect the poor and marginalized?
- What are some practical ways our small group or families can better care for God's creation without becoming overwhelmed by the scope of environmental challenges?

Life Application

This week, choose one specific way to better care for God's creation in your daily life. This could be reducing waste, conserving water or energy, spending time appreciating nature, or learning more about environmental stewardship. Share your choice with someone in the group for accountability and encouragement.

Key Takeaways

- God is the Creator and owner of all creation, and we are called to be faithful stewards rather than exploiters
- Creation care is not separate from the gospel but is an integral part of following Christ and participating in His work of renewal
- Environmental issues are also justice issues that disproportionately affect the poor and marginalized
- The resurrection principle means Jesus is making all things new, including creation itself

- We can learn about God's character through observing His creation - His precision, creativity, and providential care

Ending Prayer

Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth, we thank You for opening our eyes to see Your creation with new appreciation and understanding. Help us to be faithful stewards of all You have entrusted to us. Give us wisdom to make choices that honor You and care for Your world. May our love for You be reflected in how we treat Your creation and serve our neighbors, especially those most vulnerable to environmental harm. Strengthen us to be voices for creation care in our communities and to live out the principles we've discussed today. We commit to being partners with You in the work of renewal until Christ returns to make all things new. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.