***Creatures Called by God***

***Matthew 14:13-33***

**Devo: Read the first story; stop and consider it. Read the second story; stop and consider it. Read the material below, then read both stories again.**

Here we have two different, well-known stories (feeding the 5,000 and Jesus/Peter walking on water) that are almost always used as stories to show us the power and love of God through Jesus. And to be clear, they *are* stories that show us the power and love of God through Jesus. But I want you to also view them in a different light.

*What if these are stories of God begging us to activate the earth-ruling power given to us in Genesis 1?*

A few thoughts and questions as you consider that:

* Jesus is God in human form; we as humans are created in the image of God. So perhaps who Jesus is and how Jesus acts isn’t all that far off from what God’s intentions are for us as humans.
* Both Genesis 1 and Psalm 8 talk about humans having dominion over the earth and all that’s in it. We’re given power and glory. Yet when you read these stories out of Matthew, the disciples (who are human) seem to be timid, scared, and unsure of their place.
* In both stories, Jesus uses what’s commonly found in this world to bring forth life. Jesus is literally molding (dominating) the earth in ways that bring about more life and faith than what had already existed. And while he’s doing it, he’s asking the disciples why they *aren’t* doing it.

Read in that light, what is the call of these stories? Maybe that we’ve been given the power to use the abundance of the world to create more life… and we’re to be open to whatever situation is in front of us to actually use that power?

Now, what I’m *not* saying is that we should just be able to walk into the kitchen, find a loaf of bread, and feed everyone in sight. While that’d be delightful, and it’s not totally out of the question, don’t miss the larger point of the story because you’re stuck wondering why you still have to cook over a stove (though the very invention of a stove and using it to turn ingredients from the earth into edible food is, in-and-of-itself, a form of dominion over the earth).

But there have been – and will be – times in our lives when we are called to have compassion on those who are literally right in front of us and when we’re called to have faith in scary circumstances. And in those circumstances, how do you react? Do you find yourself feeling like the disciples – timid, scared, and unsure of your place? Or do you see yourself as a creature called by God to create and give life using whatever resources you have before you?

At our core, we’re *earth* creatures. There’s a reason that Genesis 1 isn’t just a story about the beginning of the world but is also the beginning of scripture. It’s literally the beginning of *our* story. The foundation of who we are is given to us in Genesis 1 – we’re a special and beloved part of this world, created in the image of God with the purpose of molding the earth to bring about new life. And that foundation is the lens through which we view the rest of scripture and the rest of our lives.

So just as you did with Genesis 1, read these stories as a whole and let them soak in. See Jesus (for a moment at least) as fully human and notice what he does. A human who spends time away and alone with God to receive sustenance. A human who has compassion on those who come before them. A human who trusts the power of God even when the situation is overwhelming. A human who uses their power to create life and joy with the resources available. A human who knows they are loved and who has the power to love others.

**For a Point:** identity one resource you have available to you in this world that you haven’t been using in a way that fits your calling as a human. Email to Sarah or post in the Facebook group.