



Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus

A Discipleship Journey

The OLD TESTAMENT- Their Story is Our Story

Adam & Eve
Genesis 1, 2 & 3, Week 1

If you read the opening chapters of the Bible carefully, you might notice that there are two creation stories. In the first, Genesis 1, God creates by calling everything into existence through His Word:

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image...
God created man in His image,
In the divine image He created him;
Male and female He created them.* (Genesis 1:26 - 27)

In the second story, Genesis 2, God is portrayed as a potter molding man's body out of clay and breathing life into him:

[T]he Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)

In both versions, creation is deliberate and purposeful, interdependent and inherently good. Humankind is created in God's image; God breathes into us, giving us life. Created in His image, we are His beloved, reflect His wisdom and goodness, and carry His presence into the world. This God-given identity image precedes our vocation, our profession, and any other social identifier we might use to describe ourselves. While these identifiers are important, they do not necessarily portray our true identity as uniquely created beings of God.

But, as we know, the Fall happened. We sinned and fell away from God, and over the course of our lives, fragments from this fall accumulate on us and in us until we've forgotten who we were created to be. We get drawn into believing a worldly image of ourselves, one defined by our occupation and the roles we embody. We lose our way and, unbeknownst to us, end up living a very small life - not at all the life God intended for us. You see, God's desire for us is to live into the fullness of our humanity, into the fullness of the unique image we are. If we stay small, caught in the worldly image of ourselves, there is almost no place for God to move in us, through us, and with us for the betterment of the world.

God wants us to live into the fullness of our identity, accompanying us all along the way. As Christian poet, Ranier Maria Rilke (1875 – 1926) writes,

God speaks to each of us as He makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.
These are the words we dimly hear:
You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.
Flare up like flame
and make big shadows I can move in.
Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose Me.
Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.
Give Me your hand.

How would you describe yourself to someone you just met?

How would God describe you to that same person?