

Genesis 1: 1 says In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth—

and so follows the creation story.

Genesis 1: 31 On the 'sixth day' God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

Now. Of those who believe in God some do not believe He created everything. Others believe He created everything and He did it in a week, while yet others believe He created everything but in a different time frame or in a different way.

But - almost universally, people, at some level, believe that not everything God created is good.

Take the mosquito. Its larva is eaten by fish and they grow and we eat them (BTW, Immaculate Conception is having another fish fry this coming Friday) - so mosquitoes feed fish so that makes them good, right. Yet, we fear West Nile disease in our country and in other parts of the world, malaria and African sleeping sickness and possibly even AIDS are spread by mosquitos.

But the mosquito is pretty neutral in all of this. It feeds on us so that it may make more mosquitoes to feed more fish that feed us. Things happened and the mosquito became dangerous, but it is none-the-less good the way God made it.

Rain is good, even though it may, in large amounts, cause havoc in the form of a flood. Yet it helps corn grow, refreshes our thirst, cleans our bodies and makes the air smell awesome. Rain, as God made it, is good.

Mud, that combination of dirt and moisture can be devastating when it slides from a high place, like it did last week in Washington, but mostly, for us, it is an inconvenience, and if you have the right vehicle, it can be a lot of fun. And if applied by the right person to the right place it can be very cooling, it can take away the sting of a wasp, or as in the Gospel, heal the sight of a man born blind.

We are pretty good at looking at something in creation and seeing its beauty, but we are also keenly aware of its faults. But God, not unaware of later imperfection always sees the goodness that He created in it.

And while there are many, many lessons that can be learned from today's readings, I want to tell you that God sees us as good as He made us good, though not yet perfect. How can He see us that way?

In the first reading, we hear that God sees in a person, what we cannot.

**“Not as man sees does God see,
because man sees the appearance
but the LORD looks into the heart.”**

The Lord looks into the heart, the core of the person we are. The youngest son of Jesse, David, is anointed with oil, from the produce of the Earth, to be King. God knows David's heart. He knows that while David is still prone to sin, he is good.

In Baptism, we are anointed as royalty, we are washed with water and we are born again. Not so that we can become good, though the graces given help us to become even better, we are anointed because God chooses us and we are good in His sight.

This God, out of an unmeasurable love, will do whatever it takes to help us realize His love for us and show us our innate goodness that He sees always, but that we can be blind to.

And so today, John tells us that a blind man, blamed as sinful, is made to see... that Jesus, the one who comes from God, who IS God, sees his worth and his goodness. And through this healed and restored man, God's glory is proclaimed. (God's glory is proclaimed)

(PAUSE)

Between Genesis 1, verse 1 and Genesis 1 verse 31, the verses we spoke of earlier we have:

Genesis 1 verse 27

**God created mankind in his image;
in the image of God he created them;
male and female^{*} he created them.**

And it is on the heels of that statement, God looks at all He created and found it very good.

You... and...I... are... good! Very good!

We get muddied up and dirty from our sins, we can, by their affect lose sight of our 'very goodness'. And when we are blinded to our own goodness, we don't see it in others, or even in God.

God wants so very much for us to be - all that we were meant by His creation to be. He wants us to see it in ourselves and in others and in Him .

He gave us the Sacraments, that appeal to the senses in smell and taste and hearing and touch so that we might be shown His gift of goodness in ourselves and others.

We have sacramentals, things that remind us of our value to God, that are also sensual - that is they can be experienced - such as the cool of Holy Water when we enter the Church, the smell of incense, the touch of a rosary bead. The sight of the image of God on a cross.

My brothers and sisters, God anoints us unlikely kings, He heals the sick, raises the dead, gives hope to the hopeless and Gives His life on the wood of the cross so that we might know Him and see our great value to Him.

Last week we heard from Paul:

God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Even now, even at this moment, God sees our goodness. And He calls us to Himself. Can we allow Him to heal our blindness, so that we too may see it for ourselves, and in seeing it, glorify God's great love and mercy?