

Pet Dedication Service August 2007

Objects Needed: felt board; easel; visuals; spade! Wooden snake !

Outdoor Pet Dedication Service Genesis 2 vv 15-20 & Gen. 3 vv 1-15

I want to ask some of the younger children this morning:
Have you ever made a DEN in your garden?
Or a CAMP ? (ask)

Probably not this summer! (Too wet!)

When you have, have you given you camp/den a name?
"My den." Or some other name: "Howletts" or something.

I want to ask you this morning:
Have you ever thought why YOU give it a name?
And why someone else didn't give it a name?
Why did YOU give it a name? (ask)

- YOU give it a name because it's YOUR den/camp.
You made it. YOU'RE in charge of it.

Well, we heard in our first reading from the Bible:
God has put Mankind in charge ... of the animals.

*The Lord God took the man
and put him in the Garden of Eden
to work it and to take care of it.*

And so the first ever man was given job
of NAMING the animals:

"I'm going to call that creature 'dog'"
"I'm going to call that thing 'giraffe'" and so on.
- or whatever his language was then, it wasn't English!

If you name something..... you are in charge of it.
We know that.

And God has put Mankind in charge
of the animals in his world.
That is what we learn from the Bible.

- So every time YOU say "sit" to tell your dog what to do,
you are doing the right thing! ☺
IN charge of your dog! ☺
In charge of the animals! ☺

And your dog is DOING the right thing
In doing what you say! ☺
BECAUSE you are in charge! ☺

Because we have been put by God
in CHARGE of the animals.

Now: sadly being in charge
never works perfectly with your dog! ☺

But we have been put in charge of the world
by God, over the animals.

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I wonder if someone could come and help me
Order these correctly
In terms of who is in charge of whom.

[Stick up 1) God 2) Man 3) Animals]

WE are in charge/over of the animals, but UNDER God.
GOD is over us. And WE are over the animals.

That is what we learnt.

And the Lord God gave the man just one rule:

*You are free to eat from any tree in the garden.
But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge
of good and evil; for when you eat of it you will surely die.*

In our SECOND reading we heard
how our beautiful world got spoilt.

God provided a companion for Adam, a woman.
Anyone know her name? (Eve)

And the Man and the woman
meet a Serpent in the Garden.

And the Serpent says to the woman:
“Did God REALLY say
you can’t eat from any tree in the garden?”

That’s we call “spin” !

Not what God said at all, was it?
What DID he say?

He didn’t say they couldn’t eat from ANY tree,
He said there was just ONE tree they were not to eat from.

*“You will not surely die..... ” the Serpent said.
“For God knows that when you eat of it
Your eyes will be opened
And you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

Who does serpent stand for? (ask)
(Devil)

And the Devil tempts woman to go against God.

So now the order is changed.
Not God over man over animals.

Can you put them in the order now?
Who comes first?

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Now got: Animals over man over God

(pin up 1) Animals 2) Man 3) God

- What God thinks comes very last !

God is no longer in charge of us in charge of animals.

It is the Serpent, the Devil, who is trying to be in charge.

The God of this world.

The man and woman eat the forbidden fruit,
realize what they have done:

That they have gone against Almighty God. And they hide.

God comes looking for them.

And he asks, "Where are you? What have you done?"

And the Man blamed woman; woman blamed serpent.

And as they say, the Serpent didn't have a leg to stand on!

☺

And, by the end of the chapter we learn that
the Man and the woman are shut out
of God's perfect world.

They lose their spiritual life,

- they are no longer connected to God.

Because there is a great barrier between them and God
and between each other: SIN.

[put up Man (LH) sin (centre) God (RH)]

And death has entered the world.

Adam and Eve did not die that day physically.

(They would later on)

But they died that day SPIRITUALLY

– they were now separated from God.

They were cut off from the source of spiritual life: God.

They were thrown out of Paradise.

God's PERFECT world has become a FALLEN world.

And that is the world we live in – a spoilt world.

But I don't know whether you noticed,

there was at the end of our 2nd reading

a wonderful promise. You probably missed it.

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*V14 So the Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,*

*Cursed are you above all the livestock
And all the wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust
All the days of your life.*

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman
And between your offspring and hers;
He will crush your head
And you will strike his heel."*

Those words tell us two things.

The first: Mankind will hate snakes.

Who here LIKES snakes? (ask)

[No-one/You are v rare!]

- Most people hate snakes.
Even a grass-snake we will run from at first.
It is our natural instinct.

The 2nd thing God says to the serpent
That one of the woman's offspring, her children,
Will crush his head.

What happens if you crush the head of a live serpent,
Do you think?

I've got a snake here, and a spade.
[hand out spade; put snake on ground]

Suppose you SAW a snake on a picnic in the garden one day
slithering towards you, and were frightened, and crushed
its head with a spade? What would happen to the snake?

Go on do it: have a practice! Crush its head!

If you crush the head of a live serpent,
The serpent is dead, isn't it!

The serpent is DEAD.....! Gone.....! Deceased....!
Kaputt.....! The serpent is no more!
- as someone once said elsewhere about a parrot! ☺

Well, there is the promise there
Of someone who would CRUSH,
destroy the power of the serpent, the devil.

There is the promise of Someone who would come
who would make it possible for us
to have a way back into a perfect world
where there would be no more death, or suffering.

- Where we would have that spiritual life,
eternal life, from God again.

Someone who would be one of the offspring
of this first woman, Eve.

Someone thousands of years later who
would be born of a woman who would defeat the Devil,
And who would show that He could smash sin and death.
And his name is.....
JESUS. [put up]

JESUS defeated the **Devil** in his death on the **Cross**. [put up]

Jesus defeated **sin** and **death** – rose again on 3rd day.
[put up]

And Jesus promises that
if we turn from living for ourselves,
doing what we want, like Adam and Eve did,

to follow Him, put Him first,
He will take all those who belong to Him
To be in God's new perfect world forever.....

To be back in Eden again. Forever.
Life as God intended.

{Let's pray together}