



Genesis #2

Man & Woman: Vocation and Blessing

w/c 10 May 2026

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed." (Mohandas K. Gandhi)

I'll start with a brief recap of the three key points from Sunday's sermon:

- Both male and female are made in the image of God, both mandated to care for creation.
- The Hebrew word that describes Eve as 'helper' is mainly used for God as Israel's helper.
- In Ephesians, Paul describes how putting Jesus at the centre of relationships wholly subverts the male dominated hierarchy of the household codes that dominated the society of his day. Read more about this in Ian Paul's blog on this topic¹.

Read Genesis 1:26-31

We have a strong parallel here between the core of this passage and Jesus' commissioning of his first disciples recorded in John 20:21-22. In both there is a:

Breathing (see Genesis 2:7) – just as God breathes into humanity at creation, so Jesus breathes on those first disciples to empower them for the task they are given.

Blessing – God's first act for humanity is to bless them; Jesus' words are "Peace be with you"; wishing them the wholeness of the Hebrew *shalom*.

Beginning – God gives those first men and women the command to care for his creation. Jesus words to those first disciples (almost certainly not just ten of the remaining apostles but a wider group including many of the women mentioned in the gospels) are that he is sending them as he had been sent. A reminder of John 3 and Jesus' words that he was sent to save the world.

As you reflect on these two commissions given to us, reflect on...

What is the same?

What is different?

How do you feel about the work God requires of us?

As mentioned in the sermon, the word usually translated as 'rule' in verse 28 carries a strong flavour of our being God's stewards; our caring for his creation. But how? The words used on Sunday were that we should "Walk gently on God's earth". That could mean that we will:

Be prepared to speak up for creation

Practise gratitude and generosity; reusing something is better than recycling

Reconnect with nature

Buy well produced, seasonal, local food

Reduce reliance on fossil fuels: turn down the thermostat; if possible, cycle or walk

How might we take such things forward in our own lives.

How could you explain the need for this to a sceptical friend?

The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." (Robert Swan)

¹ <https://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/aristotle-and-the-household-codes/>