

Text: Genesis 2:15-17

Title: Failure of Worship, Failure of Vocation

1.

When things don't go as well as they were originally intended, we say we're 'twisted'. It seems like an expression of imagining the threads being convoluted and twisted. So solving a problem in something and making it work out of its original purpose is called "finding a Silmari." A "Silmari" (clue) means "the first head of a wound or tangled thread." People have been thinking about where the world comes from and where it is going, the beginning and the end of the world. Perhaps you are here to think about the meaning of your life and to find a Silmari (clue) to it. Because we believe that the Bible is a book that can tell us our beginning and our end.

What is the very first word in the Bible that we believe to be the Word of God? The very first word in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible, begins with "in the beginning." In Hebrew, Bereshit is the word. The "Be" is a preposition used before the time and place. "Resht" is a word that means head or beginning. So wouldn't it be reasonable to say that the first words of the Bible begin with a "Silmari (clue)"? Genesis 1 tells us the beginning or clue of this world. God is the one who started this world. God made and liked this world. The world that God created was good. The reason we need to know the beginning is because the key to the solution of all our problems lies in the beginning. The restoration of the world to the way that God made and was good can be said to be salvation. In that sense, the original picture of creation in which God created the whole world and said it was good to see can be the ultimate goal (telos) to which we dream of going back. So, in the Bible, redeem does not mean escape or rescue from this world, but recovery to a "new heaven and a new earth."

God's creation is an event in which He found clues and gave order to a world that was in a state of chaos. Creation meant to make disorder orderly. Imagine that you bought a new house. A house where no luggage goes in and no people enter is just called a house. Now, you start putting the stuff in to start life in the newly built house.

It's a new house, and the things are all over the place. The person who bought the house cannot rest until the stuffs have been cleared. The state in which the stuff is put in place can be called in order, right? At this point, the house is turned into a home. Only then can the owner rest. Only then can it become a dwelling place and a resting place. It would be reasonable to think that this is the case with God's creation (John H. Walton, *The Lost World of Adam and Eve*, Kwangnam Kim Translation, New Wave Plus, p81). After God made the earth, created the universe, put man there and rested. He gave order to all things, calmed the chaos, and rested.

2.

In Genesis 2 we see that God placed the Garden of Eden in the center of the world in order. He placed man in the Garden of Eden in order to carry out the purpose for which man was created. So for what purpose did God make man?

Genesis 1:27-28 makes clear the purpose of the creation of man. Man in the image of God has become God's agent over the world with the image of God. That is to say, it is the purpose of the creation of man to be an agent who governs the world that God has arranged in order according to God's will. I told the story of God making a house, turning it into a home where He rested and resided, and then rested. In a way, God believed in man and rested. This is because He expected man to rule in an orderly manner as God's agent.

If Genesis 1 described the whole cosmic creation, Genesis 2 now focuses on Adam and Eden by focus in, or by Zoom in. Genesis 2:8 tells us that God placed a man in Eden. Why did He create Eden and what should humans do in it? Verse 15 supplements verse 8 and explains what man should do in Eden. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.." (verse 15) Notice these two verbs here: 'to work and take care of.' The Hebrew verb was translated as "to work" by Abad and Shamar as "to take care of." "Abad" originally meant work, serve, worship, and till the ground. "Shamar" has a variety of meanings: watch over, keep, protect, and take care of (Hebrew Dictionary of HALOT, pages 773 and 1582). It should be noted, however, that these two words are common to the

priest when carrying out his or her duties. These words are used when they guard and administer the temple, perform their service duties in the temple, and worship in the temple.

What is it talking about? It means Eden as the center of the universe, the temple, and understand Adam as the priest and steward who administers the temple. God wanted to manifest His presence in the temple and to show through man the will of His creation of this world.

3.

But why did Eden, such a beautiful temple of God, be ruined? Understanding the meaning of the two trees in the center of the Garden of Eden can solve this problem. The two trees in the center of Eden are the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It's safe to think of this tree as a real tree. It's also safe to assume that this is a symbol with a theological meaning rather than some real tree. Because the shape of the trees is not the key. The important thing is that the trees are about God being present in the world. It's also about what we can create in our relationship with God (p. 235 of the book above).

God is the source of life. And life is given by Him and found in Him. The tree of life stood in the center of the garden, symbolizing God. What is the tree that distinguishes between good and evil, which is the other tree? God has ordered and governed the world. The ability to discern that order is wisdom. The Bible is clear that our relationship with God is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7).

In simple words, the only person who can know good and evil is God. It is God who gives order to the universe and rules over man and the world in which he dwells. Knowing good and evil would mean having the wisdom to give your life order and drive it. But, the fact that man has eaten the tree of the knowledge of good and evil means that he has decided to take the initiative and wisdom of his own life. They have fallen into a state where they no longer need God.

It is significant that in the center of Eden lay the tree of life, which symbolized God, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Because the problems of our humanity begin from here. When man crosses the place of this God, worships other gods, and becomes the master of himself, the thread is completely twisted.

4.

Tom Wright refers to this man-made tangled thread as "the failure of vocation" (N.T. Wright, "The Day the Revolution Began," Jihe Lee Translation, Viator, 120).

What vocation is it referred to? What calling has God given to man? He has given us a call to worship only the One Creator. In the sanctuary of Eden, Adam was to worship God. The tree of life and the tree of wisdom that led to the knowledge of good and evil were to remind them of God. Seeing the tree of life and the tree of good and evil, man had to realize that there is a God who gives life and gives order to creation, and his purpose and calling. So the call to worship God and the delegation of authority to rule the world in the image of God were the two core contents of the human calling. The failure of these two vocations, worship and governance, was ultimately Adam's failure and man's failure.

Sin is the failure of worship and the failure of calling.

Man chose to serve creation instead of the Creator. They chose death instead of life. Now that they thought they could discern between good and evil, they pushed God out of the center of the world. Rather, they give the initiative of the world to the forces of evil.

Man, given the responsibility and authority to govern creation, has reversed his calling and worshipped and paid allegiance to the powers within creation. This is called idolatry. The forces of evil, which have been handed over the powers and responsibilities that man has ceded, have done their best to destroy man's calling and turn this world into hell. The sweet things they used to get their hands on the world were things like money, power, and sex that were very familiar to us.

5.

From today, please correct the idea of sin. The Bible speaks of sin as more than a violation of the moral code. Jesus did not die on the cross just because we violated the moral code; don't do this or do this. Of course, there are some things that Jesus took up the cross because of moral sin, but it's more than that. To think that Jesus was sacrificed on the cross to appease God who is angry and unable to control his anger because of man's ethical sins is to diminish Jesus' sacrifice too much. The Greek word hamartia, which means sin, means "to deviate from the mark." The Bible says that man's deviation from God's call is Hamartia, or sin. It is a failure of worship (idolatry) and a failure of calling. It is idolatry that the glory to be given to God is directed at another god who is wrong. It is a failure of the calling that man, who is to rule the whole world in an orderly manner on behalf of God and to manifest the image of God, has given the forces of evil the power to govern himself.

Imagine that I am a farmer who grows a farm. I ordered my sons to take good care of this farm and left for a while. My sons do not follow their father's call and call the thugs into their homes. They leave the keys to the house to the thugs and do what the thugs tells them to do. The thugs take the initiative of the farm and turn it into a mess. My father's beautiful farm was a mess. When I return to the farm, I will want to restore it to the original beautiful farm. I have to take the initiative back from the thugs and put all the unorderly tangles back to the way they were.

Jesus came to earth to restore the world that man had torn apart to the original form of creation. Jesus came to this earth to return God who is the object of worship to his original place and to take back the initiative of the world that man had handed over to the forces of evil. He took up the cross for this. God also has these two things in mind when He called Abraham to restore the world that was torn apart after Adam and when He called the nation of Israel, the descendants of Abraham. It is the restoration of worship and the restoration of calling. So wherever Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob go, they build altars to worship God alone. Because human failure was a failure of worship.

Why do we worship here every Sunday? Because we are thoroughly aware of the failure of this worship that began with Adam. Knowing that idolatry has finally become the beginning of the mess of the world, we worship the true object of worship. The "li chu" (ceremony) of giving all our sovereignty back to God is performed here every Sunday. In doing so, we have a periodic practice of fully returning the sovereignty of our lives to our true master. God, a great playwright, wrote a beautiful screenplay and entrusted us with a wonderful role to play. But we've torn apart God's scripts and created our own plots. We saw it as a wonderful place, but in reality it turned into a messy world.

In John 4, when Jesus asks a Samaritan woman how many husbands she has, the word husband means "master." Jesus asked it with the intention saying, "There are many masters in your life, and your life is bound to be tangled and chaotic." "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. (John 4:23)." This is more than highlighting just importance of worship. The way to fix the disorder in our lives is to find the true and unique object of worship. It means that we must give the initiative of our lives to the right one. It tells the Samaritan woman that Jesus came to this earth to turn man away from the evil powers that man considered himself wise and followed him.

Mankind is called to be the likeness of God, to govern the world so that the goodness of God may be manifested. In other words, we are called to return the praise of creation to the Creator, the true God, and to reflect to the world the wise and loving stewardship of the Creator. As man failed in this calling, the world began to become tangled. Returning to this clue, we have to start over. The dream of being restored by this clue is the coming of a new heaven and a new earth upon this earth. I was given a laptop. But it won't boot at all. In that case, I will need to connect the startup disk so that I can go back to the beginning. The same is true of our lives. Every problem in our lives is because we have not met God, the true Master. When we fail to give

God the initiative of our lives, our lives begin to get tangled. When we forget what our beginnings are and the purpose for which He called us, our lives become a mess. Remember that the biggest reason our lives become chaotic is the failure of worship and the failure of our calling. Give the initiative of your life to God even now. Understand the will of God to call you and worship Him fully. Destroy all masters other than God. Only then can we restore the true meaning and purpose of our lives.