

Sermon: "Who Am I?" Do you have any Questions: Part 1 Feb. 19th/17  
( Genesis 1: 26 - 2: 4 ; Genesis 3: 1-21 )

Prayer: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen .

1. Scan:

2. Two Engaging Questions:

- a. Have you ever said to yourself, "What are you doing here Allan? ....  
Do kind of do a self inventory. .... (Put your hand up please.)

**THANK YOU**

- b. Have you ever changed what you were doing, because of it? ...  
(Reflection time that is in the service of worship.) .... (Put your hand  
up please.) **THANK YOU**

3. Give name/ Name of Presentation: .... I am Allan Warren

4. Acknowledgement:

5. W.Y.W.L & K.B.

- Today you will learn quite a bit about those beginning stories in Genesis .... and what they can tell you about yourself.

6. Earn the respect to teach ....

- i. "Can I tell you a bit (story) about myself today?" **THANK YOU**

- "Who am I?" ... Youngest of Bob and Fleda's 4 children. ... Grew up in the church ... Trinity United in Windsor whose front looks a lot like this one. ... Also built in the late 50's. ... Love the outdoors. ... Gift my father passed on to me through his love of camping. ... I'm a little handy. I can drive a nail in etc. again from watching my dad who was very mechanically minded. .. I use to say if my dad can't fix it, throw it out because it can't be fixed. ... I'm married to Margo, and have a son Alex. ... This ongoing relationship with God thing is very important in my life. ... Not just because I'm a minister, but because it helps me to love myself (or maybe I could say, be easier on myself. ... My dad was a perfectionist and when you grow

up with a perfectionist you tend to be very hard on yourself and others) and through learning to love myself more I love others better. .... It also teaches me to want to care for others and 'pitch' in. Help out. .. Because that makes my life meaningful. ... As if I'm making a positive difference in the world around me.

#### 7. State Change:

- tell a neighbour .... "Who am I?" .... things you like, dislike. Things you like to do. ... do you have family .... Tell someone, briefly ... "Who am I?" then switch. ... Go ... Please stop. ...**TY**...

#### 8. Message/ Info: (remember "suggestology")

Have you ever had any questions about life? .... For example, Who am I?, Why am I here?, Who created the world?, And why is life so difficult? ... Believe it or not, some of these questions are the same that the old testament writers wrestled with over 2,500 years ago. .... The first 11 chapters of the Bible have been entitled "Pre-History" by many scholars. They are not to be read as if they were scientific fact, but rather more as parables like Jesus told that teach us something about God, something about ourselves, and why the world and life, is the way it is.

Stories, that will give you some startling information to help answer that question "Who am I?"

Well first off, we are told that we are created male and female, and that we are all made "in the image of God". .... What do you think it means, to be created in the "image of God"? ....(I'm of infinite worth, or value. Precious – God doesn't make junk. Beautiful.)

A second thing, this story from Genesis tells us about "Who am I?", is we all have our conscience. ... We have all been given the freedom or the gift of the "knowledge of good and evil." .... Many arguments against the existence of God, is why God would let such evil or bad things happen in the world.

What would you consider one of the best things of being human? ... (Freedom of choice, .... Relationships, ... think, feel, create, .... I would add family, and friends. ... Mercy and compassion. ... The gift of Love that we celebrated on Valentine's Day last week.) ... Without Free Will, most or none of that could exist.

I think God could have created a perfect world, but then we'd all be like robots. ... (Make the motions of 3PO) ... Pre-programmed to make all the right decisions and actions. .... Do you remember Data on Star Trek the Next Generation? ... The android or robot that interacted with the crew and was in constant search of an emotion chip so he could feel and understand humour.

John Bradshaw, in his book "Homecoming" mentioned how Western families carry the byproduct of 300 years of "rationalism". Rationalism being the belief that reason is supreme and it downplays humanities emotional side. If everyone just behaved more logical like Spock on Star Trek, the world's problems would be solved. Yet being able to understand and process our emotions make us more complete human beings. (The 'fullness of life' Jesus spoke of in John 10:10) ... Anger can be the fuel that drives people to fight injustice. Jesus overturning the money changers tables in the Temple. ... When asking for volunteers, it is best to find out what they are interested in, or passionate about, to give you the energy to persist and see the task through. ....

Part of recognizing "Who am I?" is to recognize that it is your emotions that drive you, that can give life it's meaning and purpose -- troublesome as they are at times. .... Love, mercy, compassion. Those attributes we believe are part of the image of God in us and which we usually admire the most in others.

Do you remember what tree whose fruit Adam and Eve were not to eat? ...**TY**... (Yes, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.) .... What is the end of this phrase, "Curiosity killed the \_\_\_\_\_" ...**TY**...

Did your mother ever tell you not to touch a certain vase, and if you did you were to surely \_\_\_\_\_ (die) ...**TY**... Did you touch the vase? .... Then what happened? .... Did any of you ever break the vase? ..... Now I never broke the vase, but there is a certain figurine in my mom's china cabinet, that is now in our

china cabinet, and if you look at it closely you can see where my dad glued it together. .... Did I die? ...**TY**...

These beginning stories in Genesis help explain the human condition. ... "Who am I?" .... Why it is so hard to organize good things. ... Adam who has to sweat and toil to get the ground to grow food. .... What do they usually produce. .... Weeds and thorns. ... Chaos. ... Now these stories are not to be taken literally, but are archetypal stories that explain not so much what happened to our first ancestors, but what happens to each and every one of us.

Last weekend, Margo went down to Kingsville to visit our flower girl. Their son Logan is about 6 months old. Do you remember those stages when children are just beginning to learn how to roll over or pull themselves up and they try it over, and over, and \_\_\_\_\_ (over) again till they get it.

What separates you and I from the animal world? ..... (Brains, gift of consciousness, knowing the difference between what is good and what is evil) ...**TY**... Do you know which part of our bodies is least understood?.... (our brains) ...**TY**... At a continuing education event, the speaker said that there are more neurons in the brain than there are stars in the sky. .... Think about that for a moment? .... I don't know where he got that fact or if it's right but even if it's close to right. Wow! .... (100 billion neurons widely used; ... 14 billion newer figure)

The Hebrew writers knew that the gift of knowledge or curiosity was crucial to life and growth. ... This story in Genesis isn't against knowledge but a warning against knowledge that leads to "fig aprons". .... Figs being the leaves with which Adam and Eve clothed themselves. Knowledge that leads us to thinking we are God or can live without God. Knowledge without sound judgment leads to things like nuclear bombs, or holes in the ozone layer, or when we do or don't use genetic modification.

"Who am I?" ... The second story that was read from Genesis this morning speaks of the 'loss of innocence'. .... To learn that there are consequences to the choices we make individually and collectively and that those choices have an effect on the garden.

"What does it mean to be human." ... "Who am I?" .... This story in Genesis tells you that part of being human is 'brokenness'. .... Yes, it could be broken bones, from writing too fast on a bicycle or ATV that flips over. ... The harder part, isn't broken bones, but broken hearts. .... The Storytellers Companion to the Bible mentioned that God is the only one who speaks in Genesis chapter 1. .... And our words have the power to hurt or to heal. ...

Wounded hearts. ... Emotions. ... We struggle with what to do with them and you can scribble them out in a journal to give you a better perspective on when you speak. ... Mercy, compassion. .... "Who am I?" ....

I will make mistakes, but when I take responsibility for my actions and don't pass the buck ... the women made me do it. ... It was the snake, he tricked me. ... Ownership for how I feel and express it in appropriate ways ... I will discover the richness of being 'human'. .... Created in God's image. ... Loved and cherished. Rooted in a blessed community.

I also firmly believe that when I remain rooted in a *faith* community ... for us that is the church .... and struggle with the rest of these stories, that you will discover the tools you need, to help heal not only your own brokenness, but also the brokenness in our world between peoples and between humanity and the environment.

When we struggle with what it means to be human .... 'Who am I?' ... in this crazy, mixed up, world, you can discover or maybe 'uncover' the fact that it is still 'very good', even midst of the brokenness.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

\*Hymn      #145 MV      "Draw the circle wide"