

Borrowing God's Gift from our Kids

"Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It is loaned to you by your children." In summer many of us vacation in picturesque beach, mountain or island locations, and we become more conscious of the wonderful world God has provided to us. We revel in the natural mountaintop beauty overlooking the green canopy of the valley below. Or, we marvel at the vastness of the ocean from our beachfront cottage or oceanfront hotel. Calm blue fill our panoramic view as far as the eyes can see, perhaps accented by a single ocean vessel sailing on the horizon. Maybe you camped out by a mountain lake, with crystal blue water, serenaded by the sound of loons and other wildlife. Or, maybe you went to the extreme of camping in the Amazon rainforest, hoping to view wild monkeys in their unspoiled, natural environment.

Thankfully, there are places we can go to appreciate the unspoiled beauty of His creation. Most of us live in a more congested environment most of the year. Even in our everyday, more urban environment there are things we can do to treat God's creation well. Conservation of natural resources saves our world for another day and future generations. After all, our world is the inheritance we will pass on to them. Being able to see the correlation of treating our everyday world well with the magical, natural world of our vacation dreams is important. They are deeply interrelated.

The trees that make paper come from those forests we viewed from the mountain top. The plastic bags we use for a few seconds – to carry groceries to the car -- will exist for 10-20 years in the landfill before finally decomposing. Tin cans remain intact for 100 years. The power we waste on lighting empty rooms is generated from coal that is mined from what was once a beautiful mountainside. The gasoline we burn fueling inefficient automobiles may have come from offshore oil rigs that now have spilled millions of gallons of crude oil over the Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida coastline. We could go on and on, but you get the picture. Not only are we wasting natural resources, we are wasting natural beauty.

So, make choices in how you live. Take care of your part of the earth that God entrusts you with. God asked man to take care of His creation. *Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it (Genesis 1: 29) God saw all that he had made, and it was very good (verse 31).*

So, what kind of world are you leaving behind to your beloved children and grandchildren? Do we love our children enough to want to leave them with a beautiful world? Or, do we think "Don't inconvenience me with the burdens of being energy efficient. Don't saddle me with the extra costs of recycling in order to live "green." What values are you teaching and demonstrating to your kids? God didn't create the lifestyle we choose to live, but He did create life. Show that you care enough about others to make good choices with his creation.

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In God's creation plan, land was created on the second day and vegetation on the third day. Man wasn't created until day six.



At each stage of the creation story God said "it was good." Let's treat our world with compassion because it is our children's inheritance. It's their world. We just get to live in it for a while.

Scripture: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). ... And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water (verse 6). ... God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good (verse 9). ... Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds. And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good (verses 11-13).*

Question: Name five ways you can help conserve resources and leave a better world to your children.

Prayer: Dead Lord. It is easy to only think of ourselves and be wasteful of this great land you gifted to us. We pray we will treat this gift reverently and do our best to pass this inheritance along to the next generation. Amen.