

Devotion 2:

## Our Father Owns Everything

Genesis 1:1—11:32

*“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.”* Psalm 24:1-2

As an English teacher by trade, I recall teaching many grammar lessons. The kernel or root sentence in the English language is comprised of two basic parts: the subject and the verb. In simple terms, the subject is the doer of the action and the verb is the action. Another striking observation about Genesis 1—11 is that God is the subject, the doer, the actor of everything that comes into existence. He *created*, He *gave*, He *made*, He *formed*, He *sent*, He *set*, He *separated*, He *called*, He *said*, He *saw*, He *planted*, He *blessed*, He *rested*. In short, God did everything at the beginning of creation and it was very good. All creation is all about Him. He is the point. He is the owner.

The flesh has a tendency to flippantly toss around the possessive pronouns in speech: *my, mine, his, hers, ours*. And, yet, this is erroneous and arrogant thinking according to what we have learned about our Father in just a few brief chapters of His Word. C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*: *“It makes all the difference in the world if we consider ourselves to be renters or owners.”*

What difference might it make in this life if we contemplated this fact more often: our Father owns *everything*? It is His spouse, His children, His house, His car, His job, His talent, His skill, His health, His body, His money, His church, and His life. He made it, and He bought it back. (I Cor. 6:19-20)

What difference might it make if we contemplated the fact that owners can do what they please with their property? That God can do as He pleases with us and with everything and with everyone around us?

And our Father is a vigilant owner. In fact, *Webster’s Dictionary* defines *jealous* as “being vigilant over a possession.” He knows what is happening with things and people that are His. Adam and Eve hide after sinning, but God knows where they are and what they have done. Cain’s offering doesn’t please God because He sees right through him to his heart and motive and faithlessness. (Heb. 11:4) God knows that Cain killed his brother. And God *“saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”* (6:5)

And when our Father saw the design of His beautiful, good creation disintegrate, *“He was grieved...and His heart was filled with pain.”* (6:6) No wonder He wanted to start anew. Don’t we? Crumpled drafts of letters, papers, and stories are tossed in the wastebasket. Burnt food is thrown out. Flood-damaged houses are demolished. There is only one more time, though, when our Father will end it all and start anew.

It will be like it was in the days of Noah. (Mt. 24:37-39) People will be going about their business of buying and selling, marrying and raising families. And inclinations and thoughts of hearts will be evil. But like Noah, there will be One remnant our Father will look to, One person who will do everything that our Father commanded, One person He will remember. And with Him He will begin anew. There will be one language and one city. And there will be only One Name that will matter, that will be contemplated, that will be worshipped. (Rev. 22:1-4)

We would do well to hold onto everything in this life very loosely.

Are your knuckles white as they clutch anything today? Are you having trouble letting go of something or someone? Are you manipulating others or circumstances to win something your way? Do you feel any sense of entitlement to anything or anyone? Perhaps you should ask God if you may “borrow” it. Better yet, perhaps you should surrender it to our Father, who owns it anyway, and desire His doing with it as He pleases.

All of this ownership talk might sound a little selfish on our Father’s part. But carefully read Genesis 1—11. He does many things for His children, even working six days to be a model for us. (Ex. 20:11) He gave man dominion over His creation. He preserves creation and man so He can later give the best gift of all—Himself. Then He says we can pray, “*Our Father.*” At last, a possessive pronoun! Something we can call “ours!” And He is better than anything (think of what “anything” includes!) in creation:

*“Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”* (Ps. 73:25-26)

It is too easy for the flesh to desire the gifts over the Giver, to seek the presents of our Father rather than the presence of our Father. But eternal life is knowing Him. (Jn. 17:3) He is the way, the truth, and the life. (Jn. 14:6) And our life is hidden in Him. (Col. 3:3) We belong to Him. And He wants the best for us. (Acts 17:27-28) Do we really want it any other way?