

Week 5: Our Responsibility for Creation (Part 1)

Exercising restraint in our use of creation

For Your Devotions

Monday: Read Genesis 1:24–31.

- What are the implications for how we live when we understand that we share the same command and blessing (be fruitful and multiply) as all creatures?
- How might verses 29–30 suggest restraint on our part?
- How does excessive consumption transgress creaturely limits?

Tuesday: Read Psalm 8.

- Whom does the psalmist portray as ultimately holding all authority over creation?
- What does this psalm say about how we ought to see ourselves?
- How do verses 1–4 set the context for how we understand our dominion as expressed in verses 5–9?

Wednesday: Read Exodus 20:13–17.

- Why do these commandments speak of restraining our actions?
- Does this type of restraint apply to the wider creation as well? Why or why not?
- In what ways could this apply to how you live your life today?

Thursday: Read Leviticus 25:1–7

- How does giving the land a rest show dependence upon God?
- How is a sabbath (restraining from overworking the land) for the land good for the long-term health of the land, humans, and other creatures?
- Where in our world today do we not exercise restraint in our use of creation (oceans? farmland? forests? etc)?

Friday: Read Deuteronomy 22:6 & 10 (mother bird, ox & donkey)

- Why leave the mother bird and take the chick?
- Why might one want to yoke the ox and donkey together? Why might this not be a good idea?
- Can you think of any examples where we as a society engage more in short-term thinking than long-term thinking when it comes to creation?

Saturday: Read Deuteronomy 25:4 (muzzling ox)

- What would be gained by muzzling the ox?
- How does not muzzling the ox show compassion for the animal?
- What might be the implications for us today with regard to the animals that serve us or provide us with food or medicine?

