

**Our readings today have much to say to our culture
Family and marriage; the core values of Western civilization
Are being attacked from all sides
The attacks may be from new fronts
But they are really nothing new
They have been there from the beginning
These attacks all stem from a specific worldview
God has a plan
He created everything with that plan in mind
But from the beginning
Men have tried to re-create God's image
Rather than acknowledging His plan
Acknowledging that we are created in His image and likeness
Acknowledging that we are creatures
He is the Creator
We are called to be stewards of all creation
We are called to see the truth
And to conform our lives to the truth
We take all these things and we turn them upside down
We want to be the creator
We want God to conform to our image**

We want the truth to bend to our will

We want creation to serve our needs

This is really the heart of original sin

And it is running rampant in our world today

Seen vividly in the attacks against the family and marriage

When God created man and all the wild animals

He formed them out of the ground

The same material was used to form man and animals

But none of them were found to be a suitable partner for the man

So He created woman from his side

Flesh of my flesh

Bone of my bone

They are to cling to one another

And become one flesh

This is marriage

A gift from God

It is not something we can give a new meaning to

It is not something we can manipulate to our desires

From the beginning

One man and one woman

But not alone

Blessed Fulton Sheen calls it 3 to get married

The man and woman and God

Love for each other, between a man and a woman

Leads to love for The Other; love for God

Marriage is a gift that God has given to human beings

As an image of the Holy Trinity

The Father

The Son and the Holy Spirit

The husband

The wife and the children

The father is not the son

The son is not the Holy Spirit

They are in relationship to and with each other

Jesus is the physical manifestation of this relationship

The husband is not the wife

The wife is not the husband

But together they are one flesh

Marriage is not a sacrament they receive

The husband and wife become the sacrament

And the physical manifestation of this love is a child

Mankind has tried to manipulate this gift right from the start

Moses allowed divorce

It became part of their law

But that is not what God intended

When the Pharisees came to Christ

They used the topic of divorce to try to trap him

To cause divisions among his followers

They wanted to know what they could get away with

But Jesus is not concerned with their laws

He is concerned with the will of God

What God made and what he intended

Our readings today put this in context of marriage

But we need to go further

We need to look at everything God created

We do not own creation

We are stewards

The physical world was created to show God's glory

Animals were created to show God's glory

Man and women were created to show God's glory

And of all God's creation

Men and women are the pinnacle of His creation

Made in his image and likeness

All other creation is there to serve our needs

Not to be manipulated or plundered for personal pleasure or desire

Pope Leo XIII wrote a great encyclical on creation

In it he extolled the virtues of private property

But it is only virtuous if personal wealth serves the common good

We are called to care for all of God's creation as stewards

The physical world and each other

The most precious gift God has given us is himself

And a relationship that leads to salvation

But original sin blinds us

We forget about the common good

We tend to use creation for personal desires

We re-define marriage

We allow no-fault divorce

We legalize same-sex unions

Transgenderism is the rage currently

But being male or female matters to God, who created us

This is not interchangeable

And it is not a coincidence

Jesus Christ was born a male

As part of God's plan

We are born male or female as part of God's plan

We allow abortion

We even allow human fetuses to be harvested and sold

And we become so numb to this when it is exposed

There is a deafening silence in our nation

Human life is no longer valued

Creation has become a disposable commodity

No amount of laws will change that

The only thing that will change it is a conversion of heart

What is needed is the vision of Christ

What is it that God intended?

The Second Person of the Holy Trinity

For a little while was made lower than the angels

Christ choosing to become man was a humbling experience

And he emptied himself in death for our salvation

He who consecrates and he who is consecrated have one origin

He is not ashamed to call them brothers

We are Christ's brothers and sisters

In humility, we come to God as little children

In humility we know that human love is not enough

It is the participation with divine love that gives us strength

Strength to overcome our limitations

Strength to overcome our weakness

This is not easy

It is something that all of us struggle with in one way or another

Even in the midst of this struggle

We are called to hold onto the ideal

As Christ did in the midst of his passion

And we come to God as little children

In a humble acknowledgment of our limitations and our sinfulness

Trusting in each other

Trusting in God

Not counting the cost

Re-created in Christ, our brother

Re-created in the image and likeness of a loving Father

So we may be witnesses and disciples of the family

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

Amen