**“Sons to Glory”**

Introit: Psalm 127:1, 3-5

# Genesis 2:18-25

Hebrews 2:1-13

Mark 10:2-16

Pentecost 19, Oct. 2/3, 2021

From Hebrews, chapter 2: “It was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the Founder of Their Salvation perfect through suffering. For He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”

Grace to you brothers and sisters in Christ and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, the “Founder of our Salvation” and brother, Jesus Christ.

**Bridge**

I’m a believer in (pretty much) “trickle down” everything. An economics’ theory has adopted the “trickle down” strategy, but it’s present (**wherever it is for good and bad**) “trickled down” (and by definition) from some **earlier or higher places of a system**, effecting (by down-flow) **whatever follows or is lower (or later) in the system**. **Ancestors** “trickle down” inheritances or, even, some medical condition. Good or bad can run downhill and each generation gets either helped or hurt and burdened by things that came before it. Cities, countries, or whole civilizations can inherit both blessings and challenges. America has the benefits of “founding fathers” and their visions and sacrifices “trickled down” to us (they’ve provided us with opportunities that have flowed from their principles and efforts). But they’ve burdened us also with baggage like individualism that’s more than ready to, often, leave God or other people’s welfare out, a pursuit of happiness that creates victims, sometimes of people who get in the way of those pursuits, and freedoms that are seldom sought so as to serve, but to be served by them.

I started with **ancestors** because things that “trickle down” through **families**, I think, **overpower most everything else** in both the **positives and negatives that they effect** … which is the **point** of today’s Scripture readings.

**Text**

The One “for whom and by whom all things exist” **“trickled down” to us** the **pleasant intent of marriage**. “A **helper** fit for man”, “**from him**” God gifted to Adam (and every Adam after him) one that’s “of his bones and flesh of his flesh”. He named her (got to name her) “Woman, because she was taken out of Man” (what the title “Woman” means, God’s design and intent).

By the time humanity got to the “Day of the Lord” / Jesus’ time, we hear even church leaders asking Him **how OK** divorce was. Four thousand years (but the “trickling down” of bad baggage, fifty percent of the time these days) gets the better of the Good of God’s intent. Even where divorce doesn’t make things final, still arguments and discord are too often heard in houses where such things never were designed to be. The promise made: “I will, and for better or for worse” gets **hedged on** and the slippery slope of “trickling-down”-spirals take their tolls.

But for the **Good inherited reason that we hear of in the Genesis 2 text**, we **take a wife** and “a man **shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife**, and **they shall become one flesh … they are no longer two but one flesh**. What therefore God has joined together, **let not man” (any man) “separate**.” Without the readings of Scripture, no one would **know** their **heritage in this**. An **inherited** **divorce rate** would, rather, be our teacher, and we would, then, **learn only that**, and **follow as we’ve got propensity to**. We’d likely embrace **that** passed down to us, “trickled” from a fallen world through fallen people (even family people) who show us (no doubt) some residue of Good, but also a lot of bad as our guidance.

Hebrews (the new Epistle that we’ll be reading from for the month of October) tells us that we need to “**pay much closer attention to what we have heard [from God], lest we drift away from IT**. For since the message declared by angels” (positive messengers of all sorts like, for instance, hopefully parents and pastors and teachers, prophets who wrote, for God, Scripture and those reading it to us and teaching us our heritage in it) “this message declared by angels **proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution”. In other words, everything made sense and happens exactly the way that Scriptural message describes**, “**how can we escape if we neglect such a message and great salvation?** It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard it from Him, while **God also bore witness** by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will. **How can we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?**” …

… and, yet, Jesus had to **explain this to the disciples**: “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another **commits adultery against her**, and if she divorces her husband and marries another **she** commits adultery.” But the world had learned to divorce and forgotten God’s plan: that marriage is a gift and Good inheritance from God to us, ordained at the very beginning when all was Good …

… and also **families of marriage and children are a heritage**. “**Be fruitful and multiply**”, God said. “**Children** are a **heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb / a reward**. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. **Blessed** is the man who fills his quiver with them!”

Yet “**unless the Lord builds the House, those who build it labor in vain**.”

I read the headline of an article saying a woman was fed up with parenting. I didn’t bother to read the rest, but I know that the labors of child-**rearing** have “trickled down” to us in mixed fashion / pleasure and pain. Four thousand years into history, children weren’t **counted**, yet people were “bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them, and **the disciples** **rebuked them**” because little was thought of children by that time. “But when He saw it, He was indignant and said to them, ‘**Let** the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for **to such** belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God **as a child** shall not enter it.’ And He **took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them**.” Surveys have concluded that children raised in the love of God by **two parents so teaching them** stay in the love of God. More than half do as well if that’s just the encouragement of a father who alone instills that. But few children (a very tiny number) remember and express the Lord’s love if dad doesn’t. God might be (right now) losing generations of children being raised by fathers and grandfathers with zero to little faith to pass on. Unbelief is “trickled down” … and kids **learn what they inherit**.

## Application

God’s design, though, is for us all (children of all ages) to be **brought “to glory”**. He concludes the Hebrew reading saying just exactly that. We have the Son of God desiring to call everybody brother and sister / “**SONS TO GLORY**” (“Him made lower than the angels [to do it] but, then, crowned with glory and honor **because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might tasted death for everyone**.”

For an **inheritance different than just this earthly existence**, God the Father made His own Son “the Founder of the Salvation of Others called sons and daughters made perfect through His Son’s suffering”. Those believing and baptized into Him and that He makes **similar to the Divine Son in this way**: “He who sanctifies” (or makes to be glorified) “and those who **are sanctified**” (given that pleasure as a gift) “all have one origin” (the Father / the same One, in Heaven). Jesus is described saying that “He is not ashamed to call those **receiving that** brothers and sisters, saying, ‘I will tell of your name to my brothers (the rest); in the midst of the congregation” (the Holy Church that’s **not just upon the earth**. “Behold”, Jesus says, “I and the children that God has given Me” to **be brothers with**.

Making “**Sons to Glory**” is the Lord’s **intent for us**. And that “glory” is a **heritage** / **inheritance** **“trickling down” from the foundation of the earth if not squelched**. It’s **ours to never neglect … but just REMEMBER AND ENJOY**. In +Jesus’ name. Amen.