

Chord Charts for Christian Discipleship @ Jazz Evensong

Week 2 Sept 13, 2017 You did WHAT???

Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?
(Genesis 3:11a)

Let's try and deal with the idea of 'original sin' in about five minutes,
maybe a little more, if we really get into it.

For a long time, since the days of Paul the Apostle,
the first writer to really expand on the significance of Jesus of Nazareth,
Christians have been fascinated with, dare I say obsessed by,
original sin – how deeply infected we are with getting everything wrong.
It has darkly overshadowed what I would say is even more important,
what we talked about last week,
the fact that God made all things and deemed them good,
including human beings.

So, this is just a little improvisation
on the idea that humans have really messed things up.

If you need a reminder of how, here's Paul's summary:

*"... fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities,
strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, envy,
drunkenness, carousing, and things like these."*

But lest we stay stuck in what's wrong, as we so often do,
let's also remember the qualities Paul ascribed to a flourishing authentic life:

*"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*

That's God's original intent for us,
the original blessing that we were created to be.
True human authenticity involves living into this kind of contributing.

How did we mess us?

I'm not going to try and summarize two thousand years
of agonizing over this question within the Christian community.
Suffice it to say lots of ink has been used in that agonizing.

I think we got into this mess by rebelling against the limits that God put on us.

The limits came because God knows better than we do
what we're capable of and what we're not.

Simply put, we're not capable of running the universe.

We don't have the knowledge of good and evil to do that.

What we can do is learn to use the gifts and capabilities God has given us
to cultivate a compassionate, prosperous, and safe community for all of creation.

God's spokesperson, Micah, nailed it.

We best contribute the capabilities God gave us to bless the creation
by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God.

That's a pretty appealing chord chart to play with our lives.

Not easy, mind you, but appealing.

An Insert for Jazz Evensong, Brentwood Presbyterian Church
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