

Body Building (the nuts and bolts)

Ephesians 3:20-4:25

#17 in our Ephesians Series

February 17, 2013

Peter Hiett

[Upon arrival at the Sanctuary, everyone received either a nut or a bolt]

Prayer

Father thank you for your Sanctuary, where you dwell with us, and in us.

Lord this morning I pray that you would help us, not just me but help *us*, to preach.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Message

Since September, we have been preaching through the book of Ephesians.

Since the New Year, Ephesians 4:1-16.

[Peter stands up by the Communion table pointing to various glasses and jars either empty or containing dirt or wine.]

I left these earthen vessels and the PVC FrankenChrist up here on the Communion table to help remind you of what we have been talking about, earthen vessels: one earthen vessel full of earth, one earthen vessel emptied of itself, and one earthen vessel filled with wine. And a bunch of earthen vessels put together, making our PVC FrankenChrist.

We have been learning, what Paul told us at the very start of Ephesians. In Ephesians 1:10 he wrote, "This is the plan for the fullness of time to unite under one wounded head, *anakephalaiosasthai* (from *anakephalaio*) all things in Christ." And Christ is already uniting us, His Church, and YET hardly anyone seems to really believe that or get the picture. And of course that might be expected because it's more than "we could even ask or imagine."

Let's read the word.

Ephesians 3:20-4:13

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, [NIV, "ask or imagine,"] according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led

a host of captives [“captivity captive”], and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? [“of the earth”] He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all [“we, the all”], attain to [“arrive at”]:

- 1) *“The unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,”*
His faith and His knowledge,
What the first Adam did not have,
Knowledge of “The Good” and Faith in “The Good.”

- 2) *“The finished (teleion) man.”*
Remember on the tree Jesus cried, “*tetelestai*,”
the same word, “It is finished.”

- 3) *“The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”*
“Mature manhood,” [literally “the finished (teleion) man,]
And remember that we are “the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”
Like creation is filled and finished in Him, in us.
And that was the assignment given to that Adam,
In Genesis 1: “Have dominion over creation.”

...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped [“supplied”], when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do...

Paul is talking to Gentiles right now, as if they are Jews, and he’s referring to unbelievers as Gentiles, and he’s already told us that Christ has broken down the dividing wall between the Jews and Gentiles making One Man in place of two.

...you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become calloused [apalgeo, like a wound that’s scabbed over, it’s unable to feel, unable to bleed] and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were

taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, [literally, "old man." In Greek, "old anthropon." In Hebrew, "old Adam"] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, [literally, "new man." In Greek, "new anthropon." In Hebrew, "new anthropon."], created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

We,
He's been talking about:
Jews, Gentiles, believers, unbelievers, members of each other.

Can you imagine?

Verse 24: "Put on the "new man" the new man, what's that?
The Greek in the sentence is very simple, in the old KJV and the NAS "new man,"
But more modern translations, translate it "new nature" or "new self."
As if self was somehow fixing the self.
As if "I am Salvation," or "We are salvation," rather than "God is Salvation."
As if we cannot imagine "God is Salvation."

Last Sunday before church, I watched a little religious TV. The preacher was and is probably one of the most popular preachers in America today. His church building is a former sports arena. He was talking about each person needing to imagine their own future, to imagine themselves as "Blessed, Prosperous and Happy." Like he had imagined that successful Church and then He said this, "The book of Genesis says, '*And nothing they imagined was impossible for them.*'"

I looked up the word "imagine" in Genesis 1, in the King James Version. The word "imagine" appears three times in the King James. The first two, God is referring to the fact that, "the imagination of man is only evil from his youth." The third time (which this pastor was quoting) described the builders of the tower of Babel:

Because nothing they imagined was impossible for them,
Because they imagined nothing but evil, death, and Hell,
Because they imagined, "their tower was salvation,"
Because they imagined, "they were salvation"
God came down and destroyed that tower and scrambled all
their languages.

And it appears that is why He kicked that first Adam and Eve out of the Garden at the fall:

They had imagined they could create themselves, in the image of God with the
"knowledge of good and evil."

They had imagined "I am salvation."

So they could no longer imagine "God is salvation."

I hope you know that the phrase “God is salvation” is (*Yahweh, Yasha,*) a name in Hebrew *Yahashua*, in English “Jesus.”

Paul teaches us in several places that Jesus is the last Adam,
The Eschatos Adam,
The finished Adam,
The perfected Adam,
The ultimate Adam.

Eschatos Adam means “Super Man.”

Genesis 1: At the sixth day, God said, “Let us make Adam in our image, in our likeness and let them have dominion over creation.” Well, Jesus is called, “The finished Adam;” “the first born of all creation,” “the first born from the dead.” Which means, before Christ, none were fully created and all were dead; Jesus is the Adam that we were all slated to be on the sixth day of creation.

The first Adam imagined, “I am Creator,” “I Am Salvation.”

The Eschatos Adam is named “God is Salvation.”

Can you imagine?

Theologian James Whitehead says, “Faith is the enduring ability to imagine life in a certain way.” Jesus had perfect faith in His Father; He imagined life. We have faith in ourselves and imagine death; we imagine our own self-centered kingdom; we imagine Hell.

Paul writes, “Put on the New Man, created (as if we aren’t created,) created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. In Romans Paul quotes Isaiah, “None is righteous, no not one.” In the Revelation, all the new creation sings, “You alone, oh Lord are holy.” The “New Man” that Paul is talking about, is a God man, He has been created, finished, and we are like, not created-not finished. Yet, in Ephesians 1:4, Paul told us that we were “chosen in Him before the foundation of the world,” to be finished, holy and righteous.

Well,

We cannot imagine “God is salvation” because we imagine “we are salvation.”

We cannot imagine Jesus because we imagine ourselves.

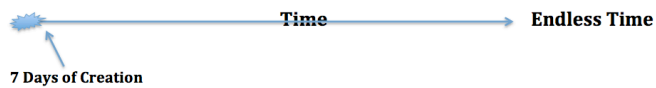
We imagine that we are finished, that we are already fully created.

So we can’t imagine being created in the image of God.

So we imagine that we are the measure of all things.

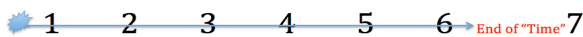
So we imagine that our perception of space and time is the norm.

So we assume that creation happened a long long time ago and time itself has no end, we imagine something like this:



That the seven days of creation were long long ago and that time is endless. But if we read Genesis and the rest of scripture carefully, we'll find something more like this:

"I Am"
Eternity



That just as time had a beginning, so it also has an end.
 And God, who is "I AM," is not a thing on the timeline that He created.
 And from the perspective of Genesis 1, our universe is only about six days old, because man is created on the sixth day.
 And doesn't scripture clearly testify to the fact that we're not yet fully created;
 We are *still* being created,
 We are *still* being saved.

Now this is actually beside the point and yet I find it thoroughly fascinating. Some physicists argue that from the standpoint of the Big Bang, (at the moment light is emitted) because time is relative, and that's not just a theory but we *know* that, our universe, from the standpoint of creation, is actually and scientifically about six days old.
 Science now says it...
 The Bible has always said it.

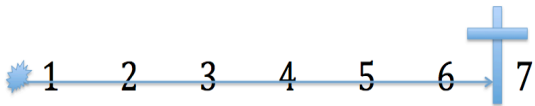
Well, time as we know it comes to an end.... at the seventh day; somehow, we're not exactly clear about the details on that but... the seventh day.

In Genesis, on the seventh day...
 "Everything...*everything* is good and *nothing* is evil."

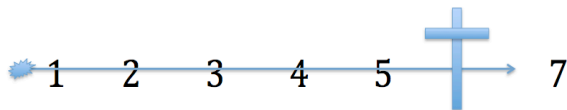
In The Revelation at the seventh seal, seventh trumpet and seventh bowl, God's wrath is ended and the New Jerusalem descends on a New Heaven and New earth.

Jesus was crucified on the sixth day of the week and appeared just after the seventh.

According to Paul and the New Testament
Jesus Christ crucified and raised from the dead is the *syntelious*.



He is the full end and perfection of the ages. Jesus is the edge of time and eternity. Jesus said, "I am the End" And yet, the End was revealed to us in 33 AD.



The End was revealed on the cross, as Jesus cried, "It is finished." The Eschatos Adam, cried, "It is finished," as he hung on a tree in a garden on the sixth day. He is "The Life" and He is the revelation of "The Good." At that tree we come to know "The Good." At that tree, we receive life. No man is completed in the image and likeness of God until He is finished in Christ through the cross and enters God's rest-The seventh day... when and where everything, everything is good and nothing is evil.

To confess Christ is:

To surrender your own creation, to God's creation.

It's to surrender your ego and confess Jesus.

It's to surrender "I am salvation" and confess "God is salvation."

It's to surrender the old man and put on the New Man.

It's more than I could ever ask or imagine,

Because He's my new imagination.

It's more than I can "choose" because He is my "new chooser."

It's more than I can simply will because it's *His* will.

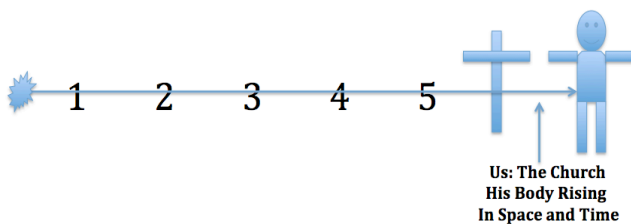
It's His Faith, rising in me, that saves me,

Creates and finishes me, in the image of God.

Paul wrote, "The last Adam became a Life Giving Spirit."

Without the gift of His Spirit, I imagine only evil. I Imagine: my self, my kingdom, my tower. I imagine *hell* and I am stuck there in space and time.

But with His Spirit, I begin to imagine *Life*. I begin to imagine "God *is* Salvation," who *is* Jesus, the Eschatos Adam-the Super Man.



We the Church are His Body.

Broken and dispersed at the cross but now rising and being unified in space and time.

Now, I'd love to discuss all of that in detail. I wrote a book on this stuff, called *Epiphany*. You can get that on our website. I'd like to write more books, and to back it all up, we could quote extensively from: Karl Barth, Hans Urs von Balthouser, Pope Paul the 2nd, Most of the early church fathers, Albert Einstein, and the world of contemporary Physics, *OR* we could just watch the best movie ever made: *The Iron Giant*.

Clip from *Iron Giant 1*

Giant: *Hogarth, you stay; I go. No following.*

Hogarth: *I love you.*

[The Giant blasts off into outer space toward a rocket that is going to destroy the Earth.]

The Giant hears Hogarth's voice in his mind: *You are who you choose to be.*

Giant: *Superman*

[The Giant intercepts the nuclear warhead and both explode.]

Well, if you saw the movie you know that the Iron Giant descended from the heavens. And it becomes clear soon that he's capable of Armageddon, but he befriends a lonely boy, without a father, named Hogarth. The Principalities and Powers, the world rulers, are terrified of the Iron Giant, so they try to nuke the Iron Giant but nuking the Iron Giant is just nuking themselves. The giant says to Hogarth, "Where I am going you cannot follow." "No following now."

It is actually just what Jesus says to His disciples in John 13. He says, "He must go in order to send His Spirit." Ascended, lifted up on the cross, He surrendered his Spirit.

In Corinthians 15 Paul writes, "The first Adam became a living being; the Eschatos Adam became a life-giving Spirit."

No one took his life from Him.

He freely chose to offer it for the sins of the world.

He freely chose the good and He *is* the good.

He freely chose what we alone *couldn't* choose;

He chose to be the Super Man.

He is the perfected Adam who freely chose the good.

And *God* is the good:

And *God* is love; He chose love in freedom and that's called faith.

We are saved by *His* faith and that is life.

Our choice, our judgment, the decision of our old man is
"I am Salvation."

His choice, His judgment, the decision that is the new man is
"*Yahweh* is salvation."

That choice, *in flesh*, is Jesus and we are His Body, according to Paul.

Ultimately, we are who Jesus chose to be.
Imagine that!

Well, the body of the Iron Giant is broken and the pieces rain down all over the Earth. He ascended and descended.

Ephesians 4, "Jesus ascended and descended in order to fill all things."

Romans 5, "The love of Christ has been poured out, shed abroad, in our hearts through the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 1:5, "The Eschatos Adam has become, He became a life giving Spirit."

Clip from *Iron Giant*

[Hogarth and his parents receive a parcel containing a piece of the Iron Giant.]

Hogarth: *What is it?*

Hogarth's Dad: *He said it was the only part recovered. He said you should have it.*

Hogarth: *I miss him.*

[Hogarth returns to his home and goes to sleep]

When you find a nut or a bolt on the floor, what do you think about?

What do you imagine? What do you dream about? Well, you wonder, "Where does this little bolt go?" and you put it in your pocket thinking, "This bolt must go to something." Just one little bolt or nut missing from the vacuum and the whole thing breaks down and is wasted. Just one loose nut on the space shuttle and billions of dollars and several human lives are lost in the void." When you find a nut on the floor, you wonder where it goes. You imagine the thing to which it belongs, the thing that gives it meaning.

Now, what if you had never seen a machine? What if you were a Stone Age tribesman from Papua New Guinea and? You would probably think, "Wow, what an amazing thing, shiny and hard." You might even turn it into an idol. But you wouldn't imagine that it was a thing designed for another thing...a far better thing.

Well, I have been mentioning Spiritual gifts since Christmas and the fact that you yourself are a gift. In Romans and 1 Corinthians Paul lists all sorts of spiritual gifts:" from speaking in tongues, to healing, to administration and to giving; they're each empowered by the Spirit. It's like the Spirit takes the form of each unique personality, into which it's poured, like wine takes the form of the earthen vessel into which it's poured, like liquid gold or iron or steel will take the form of the earthen vessel into which it is poured. And that's how a blacksmith would make a piece of hardware in Jesus' day then they'd throw away the earthen vessel and that chunk of iron would last forever.

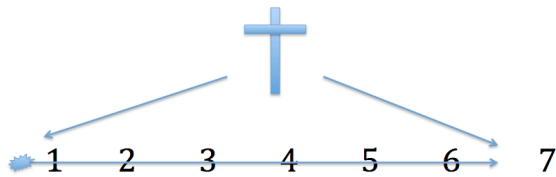
Well, you each have a nut or bolt and I am saying you also have gifts and are a gift, a gift that's like that nut or bolt in your hand or pocket. You can make an idol out of that nut or bolt or you can dream about where it belongs, the thing that gives it meaning.

There are churches that are only about one gift, like teaching (I do not want to be one of those.) That is like a bag of bolts all the same size. There are churches that are all about the gift of speaking in tongues, that is like a bowl of nuts all the same size. There are churches all about finding your gifts and so they worship hardware, like nuts and bolts, as if they were idols and forget to ask, "What are these nuts and bolts for?" What if your bolt is actually an integral part of the Iron Giant? What if your gift is actually an integral part of the Eschatos Adam? And what would it mean to "put the New Man on?" And I wonder, "How many people have a bolt in their pocket... a piece of Christ in their pocket?"

Scripture says that He is, "The light that enlightens all men," He is the "Logos," "The Meaning," "The Word that creates and sustains all things": The Way, The Truth, The Life and Love. I wonder how many people, (how many earth vessels) have got: a little love in their pocket, a little light, a little truth, or just an empty space longing for truth?"

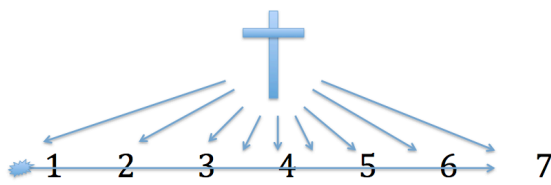
And they don't know where it came from:
They don't know what it is for.

You know Scripture mentions that, "The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world." Paul says it was then that we were chosen in Him. He was slain from the foundation of the world, slain on a tree in a garden, and Jesus says, "I am the Beginning *and* the End."



Paul reveals that His cross is like the boundary between space/time as we experience it and eternity. So when the Super Man died, how far did the pieces fall? Paul told us, “He descended into the lower parts of the earth that He might fill all things” and “This is the plan for the *fullness* of time.”
He fills time with meaning.

The pieces fall through all space and time.



Please hear me, I believe there is a Hell-Hades-Sheol-Outer darkness. It is on this timeline and I believe people go there; we know from scripture that people go there, people like: Jonah, Samuel, Saul, David; they all went there.

But why would you want anyone to remain there?

Perhaps they each have a bolt in their pocket. If just one bolt is missing, the whole machine suffers. If just one part of your body is missing the whole body suffers. David wrote, “If I make my bed in Hell, you are there.” Jesus said, “Whatever you do to the least of these my brothers you do to me,” as if He is with them and won’t forsake them. His presence is like the empty space in which that piece of the New Man is formed. God breathed His breath into every lump of clay that we call a person. His breath, His Spirit forms the void in every earthen vessel, the void in which that piece of the Eschatos Man is formed. That piece is now hidden under miles of earth and death. It will need refining by eternal fire. God in Christ Jesus will form a bolt in everyone’s pocket.

1 Corinthians 15:22 “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ will all be made alive.”

v. 45 “The first Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a life giving Spirit.”

v. 49 “Just as we have born the image of the man of dust, we shall bear the image of the man of Heaven.”
The Eschatos Adam-The Super Man.

Well, you have a bolt or nut in your hand or pocket.

What do you imagine?

About what do you dream?

Clip from *The Iron Giant*

[Hogarth is laying in the dark in his bed and suddenly his eyes open. He opens up the box where he had placed the Giant's bolt and the box is empty. Hogarth looks under the bed. A light begins flashing (from the bolt) outside Hogarth's window and Hogarth smiles. He opens the window and the bolt falls to the ground and begins to move away from the house.]

Hogarth: *See you later.*

[The bolt continues to move “toward” something and soon other “parts” of the Giant are seen and all are moving toward a light and beeping sound. The next scene is the Giant's head with a light and antenna on the top of his head. Suddenly his eyes open.]

That is the part, The End, where I cannot seem to stop weeping for joy because I began to realize, maybe everyone has a bolt in their pocket. But even more, maybe each of us *is* the bolt in our pocket. Paul wrote, “It is no longer I who live (that old earthen vessel) but Christ in me.” And who is the church? Well, we are these that are beginning to put the New Man on, connected to the Head and connected to each other.

You each have a bolt or a nut of various sizes and colors and you *are* a bolt or nut of various sizes or colors. Some of you are holding a wing nut, I do not know what that means, but you all belong to the Body of the Super Man.

Paul writes that, “God has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for equipping all of us, for building up the body.”

Apostles are people sent to start a new work.

Prophets are people with prophetic gifts. We have a prophetic team, people I've grown to trust in their gifting. They have worked hard at “speaking the truth in love.” You can make an appointment to have them pray for you and God may use them to reveal His gifts and purposes in you.

Evangelist literally means “good news announcer.” I think I'm probably one of these, serving Gospel soup to the Body of Christ.

Pastors lead sheep; they get the Body connected.

Teachers teach.

What does a bolt do? What does a nut do? They might have a class for nuts and a class for bolts but it is all for the sake of bringing them together. Frances is a pastor. Andrew, I think he is a nut but I think he is also a pastor. These gifts are for helping all of us use our gifts and so build up the Body of Christ.

For five sermons now, I keep thinking, "I'm going to talk about the nuts and bolts of Spiritual gifts. I have lots of books on the topic. I have taught many lessons so I put together a sheet, which was handed to you at the door, with your nut or bolt. I really want you to read the sheet (but not now). It is what I think is most important to say about the "gifts of the Spirit." It is what I want most to say about the nuts and bolts but I keep coming back to this realization; nuts and bolts are rather pointless without some imagination as to what they do and what they're for.

What are they for?

What are we for?

What is our church, The Sanctuary for?

Because our church is just one part of *the* Church, and one part of the Eschatos Adam.

If we trust that, "we save,"

Rather than "God saves," relying on our own imagination,

We will build the tower of Babel, one giant edifice with all the bricks just the same.

But when we trust that God is Salvation," that is, Jesus, He sends His Spirit (like at Pentecost), and remember what the Spirit did at Pentecost? It undid the curse on Babel and began to build the Church into His Body, NOT what we can build with our knowledge of God but what God does build by knowing us, His Bride-His Body.

Last week speaking about the fact that we become His body and we bleed His blood I said, "If it be God's will, our Body is to be broken and *our* blood is to be shed for the lost." I don't think the Sanctuary is about to be broken but I've been part of a church that has been broken and it's made this section of scripture very difficult, for me to preach. Then last week, as we were preaching about the Body, I remembered a prophetic word-a vision. Now I think I understand it for the first time.

A woman gave it to me in 2005 when my church felt like it could use a professional sports stadium to house all the people. She writes, "I received two visions, the first to you, the second to the church. "I saw you in a soup kitchen serving soup. It looked very nutritious but not very appealing."

(You see, the idea that "God is Salvation" is very offensive to the idea that "We are Salvation," It is offensive to the institutional church.)

Well, I was serving soup. She writes,

There was a line of poor and hungry people coming for the soup. Then, all at once, you stopped and you saw a man with no arms and no legs on a board, and you realized it was Jesus. She describes the scene and the communication; I said, "Oh Jesus, I'm sorry I didn't see you when everyone looked the same." You realized it was Jesus, then she writes, "You fed Him the soup." I fed His incomplete Body this soup, and then she writes, "As you fed Him the soup His Body began to grow arms and legs. Then He whispered in your ear, "Peter this is my Body; feed my Body. Peter they can't feed themselves with their own hands. Their hands were made for feeding others, not themselves. Love them Peter, because you love me. Hold them because you hold me. You cannot love them if you don't see me in each one, in my Body, my Bride."

Then the second vision, she wrote, "It was like a storm, a tornado" and it hit the church. She saw body parts flying all over with no sense of direction, no stability. She was searching for something stable and then she saw the cross, it was stable and then the wind blew the parts into the cross, nailing them there in the form of Jesus. Then blood began to flow from each part and it formed a river and the river seemed bottomless" Then Jesus said, "This is my mercy, poured out for all my creation." "Let my mercy flow from you!" He said some more things for the church. Then He said receive comfort for your pain. Then she heard Isaiah 54,

*"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married," says the LORD.
"Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.
For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,
and your offspring will possess the nations
and will people the desolate cities.*

*"Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;
be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.
For your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.
For the LORD has called you
like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,
says your God.
For a brief moment I deserted you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.*

*In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,”
says the LORD, your Redeemer.*

*“This is like the days of Noah to me:
as I swore that the waters of Noah
should no more go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you,
and will not rebuke you.*

*For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,”
says the LORD, who has compassion on you.*

*“O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted,
behold, I will set your stones in antimony,
and lay your foundations with sapphires.*

*I will make your pinnacles of agate,
your gates of carbuncles,
and all your wall of precious stones.*

*All your children shall be taught by the LORD,
and great shall be the peace of your children.*

*In righteousness you shall be established;
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.*

*If anyone stirs up strife,
it is not from me;
whoever stirs up strife with you
shall fall because of you.*

*Behold, I have created the smith
who blows the fire of coals
and produces a weapon for its purpose.*

*I have also created the ravager to destroy;
no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed,
and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.*

*This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD
and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.”*

It is a text that at least four different people on four different occasions had given to me around that time saying, “This is for you” and later “This is for us!” I think that vision is a perfect description of the painful birth of The Sanctuary. We the church, the institutional church, imagine that we alone are His Body and so we only see ourselves and imagine what we can do but the Body is incomplete and we each get calloused and so God sends storms and does some cutting. It was God that destroyed Old Jerusalem, that scattered the church to the ends of the earth, until New Jerusalem. We imagine that we alone are His Body because, we alone chose to be His Body and so, our imagination is far too small.

We may be impressed with our nuts and bolts but we need to start dreaming of the Eschatos Adam. We have been called to speak to the Church the whole church. We are to say, "You are the Body of Christ but our dreams are too small. We dream of what we ourselves can do, and so our dreams are too small. Our imagination is too small! I think we are supposed to feed the Body of Christ some imagination soup. Just imagine our God is so great that He is uniting all things in Christ Jesus." Just like the Apostle Paul said he would. It is not just a possibility; He is already risen from the dead, in His Body, His eternal and incorruptible Body of which we *are!*

Can you even begin to imagine?

Communion

Well, on that night we all betrayed Him, He took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body given to you; take and eat; do it in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, and having given thanks, He took the cup saying, "This cup is the covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins." Drink of it, all of you; do it in remembrance of me."

So He calls you to His table, and we invite to take off a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. The dark cups are wine; the light cups are juice.

It's a great honor and privilege, for me, to serve you our Lord's Imagination Soup.

Believe it.

Live it.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer

And so Lord God we pray that you would rain down on us, that your Spirit would rain down on us. Lord Jesus we're beginning to see what it cost you that you would give up your Spirit to the Father, who would send your Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God to: inhabit us, and move in us, and motivate us.

Holy Spirit we invite you. We ask you to fill this place. We thank you for the gifts that you have given us. I know of so many amazing and wonderful gifts in this Body, from strange and unusual kinds of gifts to the ones we see more commonly, to sweeping the floor, and they're all motivated by you.

Holy Spirit, would you inhabit us? And we know that you're here. Thank you for being here. I guess I am asking that you would fill us, keep on filling us.

Baptize us, move in us, cause us to bump into each other and figure out how these body parts, the parts of the Eschatos Adam begin to fit together.

Connect us to the Head and connect us to each other. Holy Spirit most of all would you help us to dream? Scripture says that you glorify Jesus.

With our gifts, with the things you create in us, would you help us to glorify Jesus, as His Body: Holy Spirit, thank you for this Body.

Make us into what you want us to be.

In Jesus' name. Amen

Benediction

Now, would you just hang on to your nut or bolt for a while. Keep it in your purse or pocket and every now and then pull it out and just imagine; just dream about what gives this meaning: Dream about the Eschatos Adam who gives *you* meaning.

And if you ask, "Why did God do it this way?"

I think most people think that God is up there trying to figure out what we're going to do, as if He doesn't know.

Why did He do it this way?

That we would be part way made and then He would give us a piece of it.

Why would He do it this way? I don't know for sure, but when you were a kid, did you ever build something with your dad? If you did, wasn't the thing that you built that much better because you built it with your dad? Didn't you enjoy it just that much more because you and your dad built it?

In Genesis God says, "Let us make man, Adam in our own likeness." Who's He talking to? Scholars say, "That's a plural of majesty," they debate that. Maybe He was talking to Jesus, but maybe He was not just talking to Jesus.

Maybe He is talking to His body.

Maybe He is talking to you.

"Let us make Adam." Maybe He wants you

to share His joy forever.

Can you imagine?

Well try and the Holy Spirit will help you.

In Jesus' name,

Believe the gospel,

Amen.

Disclaimer: The following document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.