

THE CLAIM

Genesis 3:8-15 | 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 | Mark 3:20-35

The process of _____

Two false _____

He belongs to _____

He belongs to the _____

And one _____

We belong to _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

Often in the last 20 years, since I became aware of it, I've thought of the power of systems – family systems, governmental systems, church systems, race based systems, political systems, etc. Systemic thinking tries to look at how we live and act through the ways we have been influenced by systems that existed before us and exist around us and in us. Being aware of systemic dysfunction can be helpful in understanding some of the problems we encounter in us and around us. One of the things in the Gospel text that strikes me is that Jesus is presented with two different systems that are trying to exert some level of control over him – his family system and his religious system. Yet, he is able to resist the power of that system by appealing to something else – the relationship he has with his Father, and the people who are joined in that with him. Read Mark 3:20-35.

Reflect:

How have you, or not, been able to set a path in life by appealing to God's relationship to you? How has your family system helped, or not, in that? How has your religious system helped, or not, in that?

Thinking back to Genesis 3, the power of sin and disobedience to God is something we can think about as a system. How does Jesus address sin here in Mark? What needs to happen?

Respond:

The First Commandment (You shall have no other gods before me) is at its heart us receiving God's claim upon us.

Remember: "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:35