

Audience 2

John Paul II refers briefly to the discussion between Christ and the Pharisees mentioned in his first talk, where Christ directs us back to “the beginning” when reflecting on marriage. The Pope tells us that in the two creation accounts in Genesis have to be considered in context with Christ’s words “Have you not read that the Creator from the beginning made them male and female...?”,

The first, which was written after the second tells us the seven day cycle of creation in a theological manner which stresses man’s relationship with God (created in His image), whereas the second is more of a generalized abstract account which is more in line with Christ’s words teaching us about original innocence, man’s happiness and man’s fall. Although the second account gives God human attributes, he breathed life into them, he formed them, we must remember God is not in our image, we are made in his, and that God did not literally breathe, it is merely a human way of expressing the concept of giving life. In this narrative we are created male and female. We are created together with the visible world, but we are different. We are told we are not like the other visible creatures, but that we are in God’s image, and we are in fact given dominion over the rest of creation.

Even though man is a physical being, the first account, which is theological, tells us that only man cannot be understood in terms of the world alone because “God created man in His image” (note the bible only specifies man) “male and female he created them.” This creation story is free of any conclusions based merely on opinions or feelings, but on concrete reality. This gives us greater insight into the reasons for our existence. As this creation story also informs us of God’s perspective of procreation, “Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth.”

To understand the spiritual aspect of man, we must first understand the value, the good, of man. After the creation of man “God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good.”