**Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**

**Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground,  
For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are,* And to dust you shall return.”**

It’s important to remember your roots, where you started. That’s one of the issues in this country today. People don’t take the time to remember their sin before they cast a stone at another. We don’t give the same mercy we ask for. We don’t extend the same Grace we crave. Oh how different the world would be if we spent more time crying – forgive them Lord, they know not what they do – and less time crying crucify, crucify. A different world indeed.

A large part of the problem is that people forget that we are dust. Verse 7 begins – *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground*. Don’t let it be lost on us that birds were flying, fish were teeming, herbs were growing. God didn’t make us from another animal or take the branch of a tree and form us. No, the Bible says that we were formed from the dust of the ground. The same dust that we walk on, plant seeds in, and sweep from our door – that is what we are made of. God made the pinnacle of His creation, the one that is made is His own image, and, according to Psalm 8:5, is just a little lower than the angels, from dirt. I believe that there is a very important message here – only God can take something worthless and make it priceless. The Bible tells us He can make people from stones (Matthew 3:9), but He chose dust instead.

My grandmother used to say – don’t get above your raisin’. Never forget where you came from. We’re called to be humble before God and remember that He is Creator and we are created. But, many forget where they came from. The pot begins to tell the Potter what to do. Yet, God says – *For dust you are and to dust you shall return*. Dust is about as humble as it gets! People kick the dust when they’re mad. Things fall in the dust. Bugs and snails crawl above the dust. But the God of the Universe chose dust and formed it and shaped it into man. He chose the most humble to form the most remarkable. And He does that with people today.

True humility before God begins with realizing that He raised us from the dust and will return us to the dust. All we accomplish in the lifetime will return to dust unless it is done in Spirit. The houses, cars, and possessions will all return to the dust. Business and social achievements will all be forgotten. What is great today may be cursed tomorrow. To invest in what is destined for dust is foolhardy and prideful. I read a quote from J.I. Packer that said, “To grow up in humility before God is to bow ever lower toward the dust from which we came.” In Christ, we find ourselves facedown stirring the dust with the very breath of our humble prayers.

Verse 7 finishes - *and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* The dust has been formed, but there is no soul until God breathes into the nostrils. Birds are flying, cattle are creeping, fish are swimming – nowhere does it say that God breathed so intimately on them. He formed man and breathed His very spirit into the nostrils. Ecclesiastes 12:7 says *Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.* All creation falls to the earth and dies, becoming dust again. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us that man and animal alike return to the dust, but the spirit of man goes up. It also says that surely we all have one breath, but our spirit is different. The difference came not from the dust that was used, but from the spirit that was breathed. The difference came not from that which was formed, but instead from Who breathed the life. Through that breath, man became a living being.

And so it is today. In Genesis 2, we see God creating perfection. In Genesis 3, we see Satan introducing corruption. And in Genesis 3:19, we read the resulting curse of disobedience - *In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”* God breathed a perfect spirit. Satan introduced sin. Man embraced that sin, thereby clouding out the perfect spirit. It brought the pity of God on mankind. A pity He still feels today - Psalm 103:13-14 *As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him.**For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.* And so enters the Savior Jesus Christ, Who, through belief in Him, repentance, and acceptance, introduces a new Spirit into our form. The Holy Spirit connects us with God again – the man of dust calls to the breather of Life again.

Notice that the things of the world go down into the dust, but the spirit returns to God. Thus, anything we do that is destined to last must be done in the spirit for the benefit of the Kingdom. Nothing else will matter in the end. When we stand before God, He will not ask about the buildings with our name on it, the plaques honoring our efforts, or the money left to charity. He won’t be impressed with titles or addresses or degrees. In humility, we see that none of the things that feed our sense of importance mean anything to God. Listen to Jesus in Mark 9:35 *And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”* Dust is servant to all – esteeming all more highly. From the dust God elevated us. May we, from our place of honor and elevation, by the breath of His spirit, bow to the dust and serve Him with humility and love.