

LOVE AND MARRIAGE Sunday, September 8, 2013

Unifying Topic: GOD'S IMAGE MALE AND FEMALE

Lesson Text

- I. The Man Should Not Be Alone (Genesis 2:18)
- II. Adam Names The Animals (Genesis 2:19-20)
- III. God Creates The First Woman (Genesis 2:21-25)

The Main Thought: And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. (Genesis 2:18, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Finding a suitable companion with whom one can share life can be a struggle, but it can also bring great joy. How does one find a suitable partner? According to Genesis 2, God created Eve as a partner for Adam.

Lesson Aim: To demonstrate how God responded to the problem of the man being alone in His creation.

Life aim: To understand that humans can only become whole through relationships with others and God. God created human to be in community.

- 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
2:19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.
2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.
2:21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
2:22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

HISTORY:

¹The heavens and the Earth were finished. God rested on the seventh day and blessed it. God formed man of the dust of the ground. Man needed responsibility, so God planted a garden in Eden. In the midst of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river flowed out of Eden that parted into four heads (Rivers: Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel or Tigris, and Euphrates). Man was to dress and keep the garden, but not eat of the tree of knowledge. The Garden of Eden met man's need to live forever. The tree of life was to keep Adam from dying. ²God told the man that he was allowed to eat from any tree in the garden, except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And it says "*for when you eat of it, you will surely die*"v.17. Notice that God says "when you eat of it", not 'if you eat of it.' God knew what was going to happen.

Contrasting The Two Gardens: Adam vs. Jesus

The First Adam In His Garden of Eden

The Second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, in His Garden of Gethsemane

Adam was in a perfect Garden within a perfect world (Gen.1:1; 2:8-9).	Christ was in a barren, desert-like garden in an imperfect world (Gen.3:17-18; Rom.8:19-22).
Adam was in a Garden of beauty and joy (Gen.2:8-9).	Christ was in a place of heaviness and sorrow (Matt.26:37).
Adam was seeking to fulfill his own desires and cravings (Gen.2:17; 3:6).	Christ was seeking to do the Will of God (Matt.26:39; Heb.10:7-10).
Adam disobeyed God and sinned and brought death to the human race (Gen.2:17; 3:1; Rom.5:12).	Christ obeyed God and died for man and brought life to the human race (Jn.3:16; Rom.5:8; 1 Pt.2:24; 3:18)

The Tree Of the Knowledge Of Good And Evil

The Tree O The Cross

The tree was planted by God (Gen.2:8-9).	The tree of the cross was made by man (Jn.19:15-16).
--	--

¹ http://access-jesus.com/Genesis/Genesis_2.html

² <http://sernabibleblog.blogspot.com/2006/06/genesis-2.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

The tree was pleasant to the eyes (Gen.3:6).	The tree of the cross was a repulsive, cursed tree (Gal.3:13).
Man was commanded to turn away from this tree (Gen.2:17).	Man is commanded to come near this tree (Jh.12:32).
Eating of its fruit resulted in death (Gen.2:17; 3:1; Rom.5:12).	Eating of this fruit—of Christ Himself—results in life (Jh.6:53-54; Jh.6:51, 58).

The seven firsts in Chapter 2:1-25

1. The first Sabbath (2:1-3)
2. The first vegetation (2:4-6)
3. The first man (2:7)
4. The first garden (2:8-14)
5. The first covenant (2:15-17)
6. The first woman (2:18-22)
7. The first marriage (2:22-25)

LESSON:

Genesis 2:18 The Man Should Not Be Alone

2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; — This idea of a companion for Adam was never an afterthought of the creation of a woman for Adam in God's plan. When God saw His creation as "very good" (1:31), He commented "*not good*" on the incompleteness before the end of the sixth day, because the woman, Adam's counterpart had not yet been created. The phrase "*not good*" meant incomplete, unfinished, unfulfilled, deficient. Therefore it was not good for man to be alone; standing by himself.

2:18b I will make him an help meet for him. There is no record of Adam complaining about his loneliness. He fellowshipped with God; God was all he knew, all he had; this was God's decision. God decides to make Adam a suitable (face to face helper; not to be a slave or to be in subjection to him). Matthew Henry wrote: "*She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected and near his heart to be beloved.*" Paul wrote that "*the woman is the glory of man*" (1Cor.11:7), for if man is the head, then woman is the crown that honors the head. T. D. Jakes puts it this way: ³*"The woman was made, fashioned out of the man, to be a help meet. She helps him meet and accomplish his task. In other words, if you have a power saw, it has great potential for cutting. However, it is ineffective until it is plugged in. the receptacle (the female) helps the power saw meet its purpose (the male). Without that receptacle, the power saw, although mighty, remains limited. Keep in mind, though, that she completed his purpose, not his person. If you're not complete as a person, marriage will not help you."* The word "meet" or "suitable" (*keneghdo*) means fit, corresponding to, adapted to, agreeing with counterpart, opposite, equal to. It means woman...

- was created as a suitable helper for man.
- was created as a fit helper for man.
- was adapted to the nature of man.
- corresponded to the nature of man.
- agreed with the nature of man.
- was like the nature of man.
- was an opposite and equal being for man.

The point is: help meet was a name God called the female gender that was suited for the occasion, a suitable helper; his counterpart. To function as a helper is elevating, not belittling. Woman was made by God to meet man's deficiency. The point is that man was only half of God's plan for human life. Woman was the other half. God's plan included the creation of woman just as His plan had included the creation of man. Man and woman were created as equal beings, as two equal beings who were to be equal companions to one another. Man was the stronger person physically. They differ only in that they have different roles and purposes upon earth.

Genesis 2:19-20 Adam Names The Animals

2:19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. This verse means and shows that the birds and the beast were created before Adam (1:20-25), but Adam's dominion is seen in this verse and the next. The Lord God had formed every beast of the field out of the ground just as He did Adam, but man was a living soul in the image of God, having dominion over the fish, the fowl, the cattle, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing... signifying his rule over them (1:26-28). Adam was then given the

³ T. D. Jakes 365-Day Devotional & Journal—Healing, Blessings, and Freedom
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

job to name them as God brought them to him. God caused all the animals to parade before the man Adam and Adam named every living creature that was named.

2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. Two things were accomplished as the animals passed by Adam:

1. First, names were given to each of the animals. Naming is an act of discerning something about the creature so as to appropriately identify it and also an act of leadership or authority over which was named.
2. Second, Adam saw with his own eyes that each of the animals of God's creation was subhuman, inferior to him, no fit for him. There was no kinship with any of the animals. Adam was unique; he was the only one of his kind; no help meet for him. The animals were not on the same level as man. Although Adam didn't seem lonely, he had a lot to do, but there was no one that looked like him. However, God was preparing Adam for his helper; he would soon have someone by his side.

Adam didn't struggle trying to find a help meet; a counterpart. He didn't go to God asking where is someone for me? No, we find in verse 22 that God brings her to the man Adam. Men allow God to choose the right woman for you.

Genesis 2:21-25 God Creates The First Woman

2:21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;— Not only did God recognize that man's solitude was not good, He took the steps to prepare the way to complete man (God's other part of the plan). Now, God had already made man, but now, divine anesthesia (putting man into a deep sleep) is administered by the Great Physician to create another being from the first. How awesome is this! The Supernatural Surgeon immediately goes into the side of Adam and takes one of his ribs, and supernaturally closes up the flesh.

2:22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. Only one rib is needed! God tenderly and meticulously operated upon Adam and removed a rib from his body, and "Waa lah", (spelled Voila-French, for "here it is"): **Woman is Created!** God did not create the woman like the man and animal kingdom. Why?

1. Woman came *out of man's need*. Therefore, she was to *come "out of man's" being* (vv.18, 21-23).
2. Woman was to be the object of man's *cleaving*. Therefore, woman was made out of man's being in order to cause a *natural clinging*, a reaching out for one another's own being, one another's own flesh (vv.23-24).
3. Woman was to be *one flesh* with man. Therefore, she was made out of the very flesh of man so that man and woman would have *identical natures* and stand as the *counterpart* to one another (vv.22-23).
4. Woman came *out of man's flesh* so that both would cherish and nurture the other. No person hates his own flesh. The very opposite is true: he cherishes, protects, and cares for it (vv.22-23; Eph.5:28-29).
5. Woman is the *glory and crown of creation*; the being who brings more refinement to the world than any other creature (1Corth.11:7).
6. Woman was created from the rib taken from the very side of man that protects his heart. Woman is that which gives so much meaning to man.

After creating woman, God then brings her unto the man; brought back to his side to unify him. That is why the husband is to leave... and cleave... The woman is brought before Adam, as were the animals. This is a declaration of the first marriage. This is performed and sanctioned by God alone. God is the Father and minister. God brings the two together as a father would bring his daughter, the bride to the man as he walks her down the aisle for the wedding ceremony. Matthew 19:6b says, "*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*"

2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Adam, still on his job declares who she is, just as he has named the animals. Out of joyfulness

after awaking from the deep sleep, Adam calls her "*Woman*." This again shows man's dominion and authority. Despite the equality that men and women find before God, it is still God's design for the man to be in authority (I Tim. 2:11-13; I Cor. 11:8, 9, this passage explains God's order of authority). Also does 1 Cor.11:3. "*Bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh*" show that woman was taken out of him. The rib is also used to convey or show the woman's equality with him. Therefore, Adam makes it known that woman is taken out of him and she would always be a part of him, but softer. Because she is taken out of him, a man and woman should walk together side by side, not divided.

2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. This give the goal in marriage based upon the unity expressed in vv.22 and 23 and it overrides the clinging to one's parents. Three things happen here:

1. There is to be a *leaving of parents*. The relationship shifts between persons of the family.
2. There is to be a *cleaving to each other*. The union is to be permanent; glued to his wife.
3. There is to be *one flesh*. There is to be physical intimacy (sexually) so binding that they become as one flesh; one unit; joined to; bound together in unity as one.

The creation of Adam and Eve teaches us about the marriage relationship.

1. Marriage was instituted by God and not by man, thus God's Word must give us the proper guidelines.
2. Marriage was, and is to be monogamous; God gave Adam one wife.
3. Marriage is to be heterosexual (sexually attracted to the opposite sex), no other kind of way.
4. The husband and wife are to be unified physically and spiritually.
5. The husband is to be the head of the wife because God instituted it, not because men are superior (1 Corth.11:3).

If you attempt to maintain separate identities and hold back parts of yourself from your spouse, it can lead to ruin.

2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. Man and woman were created perfect, innocent, nothing hidden, and without shame. They had done nothing wrong and sensed no guilt or shame whatsoever. They belonged to one another: their bodies belonged to the other, and together they belonged to God. They stood before God and before each other in perfection.

SUMMARY:

In God's Manual the Bible, He said it was not good that man to be alone. God already had a solution to His statement, Woman was the answer! She would be man's help meet, meaning a suitable counterpart to man. From the ground God had already formed, that is created the beast of the field, the fowl of the air, bringing them to Adam to name. As Adam named them, there was not that was fit for him; none of his essence/nature (2:18-20).

God causes Adam to fall into a deep sleep and prepares his body for surgery. God takes one rib out of Adam's side and create a woman fit for Adam and then skillfully closes up that part of the flesh He had opened. God brings His creation before Adam and he calls her "*Woman*", bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh because she was taken out of man; meaning man is to leave mother and father and cleave unto his wife to be one flesh; one in unity physically and spiritually. In the man and woman's nakedness, they were not ashamed as man and wife (2:21-25).

APPLICATION:

Man was not to be alone; woman was chosen for him. God gives the image of His creation of man and woman as a complete entity, demonstrating the coming into the covenant of marriage as one flesh. They were perfectly created for each other. God is able to find the suitable companion for those who ask Him.