

Beginnings

Eve

Genesis 2:18-25

March 11, 2018 am

HDBC

This morning we continue our study of Beginnings, the early chapters of Genesis. Chapter 1 offered a step-by-step accounting of the creative acts of God. Chapter 2 brings us back to day six and a retelling of the creation of Adam and Eve. This morning we focus on the creation of Eve and what she meant for Adam and for all men and women who came after her.

Read the Text: Genesis 2:18-25

This is what we learn about **Eve**.

1. She was Needed by Adam (18)

Before Eve, there was something missing in Adam's life. There was something that he absolutely needed that was not yet there. **He was incomplete!**

Before Adam was aware of his incompleteness, **God noticed**. Everything about God's creation had been good. Throughout the days of creation, God repeatedly looked over what he had done and **declared it good**. But when he saw Adam without a companion, he said "**this is not good**."

The Hebrew construction of this verse intensifies the negative phrase, *not good*, by putting it at the beginning of the sentence. This did not surprise God. Eve was in the mind of God long before she was in the arms of Adam. God knew all along what he intended to do.

God determined to make a **helper fit (suitable) for him**.

There is quite a bit of misunderstanding about these terms. He was not trying to please Adam, although He did. This does not mean, God brought Eve to Adam and asked if she was suitable. This was not about Adam's evaluation, but God's.

Fit – literally “that which is in front of him.” Indicates a correspondence between the man and woman. Joint humanity. They are of the same essence. The focus is on the equality of the two as persons. Neither is more important. Whatever differences there would be, and there would be many, their sameness is much more important.

Helper – Defines the role which the woman would play. To help in the sense of aiding and supporting. It was not a term of derision or servitude.

God himself was described as a helper to Moses. So it is not an indication of a lesser role. Just a different function. This indicates a **functional difference between the man and woman**. She is an indispensable partner with Adam. They complement one another. This is true on of all males and females, culturally.

As Adam needed Eve, individually . . . all males need females, collectively.

As Eve needed Adam, individually, all females need males, collectively.

What is true at the individual level is true at the larger, societal level.

I think there is an important thing to remember at this point. **God has created us for companionship**. We are created with a desire for friendship and fellowship.

Marriage is the most intimate expression of how this need is met on a personal level for a majority of people. More in a few minutes. But it is not the only way this need is met.

For many, who are single, that need is met in a significant way through deep, abiding friendships.

Some of those are with **other singles**.

Some are with married couples.

Some are with people of the **same sex**.

Some are with people of the opposite sex.

Those of us who are married make a serious mistake when we see the world only through our married eyes. We often think that all singles must surely want to be married and that the only hope they have for companionship is marriage. This is a grievous error on our parts.

Jesus was single. He honored and revered marriage, but felt no need to demonstrate it in his own life. **Paul** encouraged those who were single to consider staying just as they were because it would free them for greater ministry and service to the Kingdom. (1 Corinthians 7)

As males and females, we need each other.

As marrieds and singles, we need each other.

Those of us who are married have a long way to go in understanding and relating to our single brothers and sister. **We must listen, learn and relate better**.

2. She was Suited for Adam (19-20)

The text tells us that God brought to Adam the animals with the instruction that he name them. As Adam named the animals it became very clear to him that none of them could meet his need for companionship.

God was using psychology on Adam. As Adam was giving them names, he was realizing that none of them were suitable as companions. Not only were they different from one another, but they were different from him.

There could be no substitute for human companionship.

3. She was Related to Adam (21-23)

The creation of Eve was different from every other part of creation.

Stars were spoken into existence. Adam and the animals were made of the dirt. For the first time in creation, something is made **out of a currently living being.** Eve is not made from the dirt but from Adam. This assures her equality with man and the unity intended by God between the man and woman.

God put Adam to sleep, opened up his side, took a rib. From that rib formed the woman. So, she would forever be part of him. Someone theorized . . .

God created man - backed away and looked at him and said I can do better than that, so he created woman.

God brought Eve to Adam. What a surprise. Remember what Adam had been looking at. **Elephant, monkey, mouse, cow, giraffe, anteater.** He suddenly became wide awake. The scriptures record his words. Or at least some of his words. **I imagine there was a “wow” in there somewhere.**

This at last . . . can best be translated **at last!!** Indicating that Adam instantly knew that she was the companion that he had lacked. Do you believe in love at first sight? Adam did! He was in love.

4. She was Married to Adam (24-25)

These words were clearly not for Adam and Eve but for the generations that would come after them. In these words I find no less than **four key principles of elements in a marriage.**

Those who have marriages that are **surviving and thriving** have incorporated these principles into their marriages. What are they?

A. Separation

By its very nature marriage involves a new beginning. A young man or young woman decides that they want to find someone who will become their lifelong companion. So, the search begins.

The man is to leave his father and mother. The same is true of the wife. In order for a marriage to be successful the husband and wife must understand that they are making **an important break with the past**. Their primary relationship will now be with their spouse, not their mom and dad.

B. Commitment

Hold fast to his wife. To cling, bond, join. Super glue.

There is another word for this. Commitment. Determination to stick with it. This is a foreign idea to much of our population. **We live in a disposable age.** **Paper plates, napkins, etc. Diapers. Cameras.**

There must be a **separation**. There must be a **commitment**.

C. Bonding

And they shall become one flesh.

Let's keep it simple. A togetherness that develops between the husband and wife. Unique bond that is shared between those two individuals and no one else. One man and one woman in a permanent marriage relationship.

I do not fully understand this. It is one of the mysterious things that God brings about when a man and wife make a commitment to marriage.

Two people come together to form a new union. A new entity. In this process one's primary focus shifts from self to the other person. The two begin to work as one. Walk in the same direction. Embrace the same goals. Walking in step with one another.

D. Intimacy

Our text tells us that they were naked and not ashamed. Hard for us to comprehend this. No shame. No inhibitions. No hang-ups. No concerns. How could this be? **This was before their fall into sin.** They were completely selfless. They were transparent and secure in one another. Sin had a devastating effect on their intimacy. What were the first things that they did after they sinned? Hid from God and from themselves.

With the creation of Eve, God's creative work comes to its completion. Think about that ladies and gentlemen. Even with all that God had made and done, His work remained unfinished until He created Eve.

This passage teaches . . .

1. Mutual Respect

There is clearly an equality of worth, value and significance with the two sexes. Men and boys, we need to respect the ladies and girls in our lives. They are the special creation of God. Ladies and girls, you need to respect the men and boys in your lives. They are the special creation of God.

2. Mutual Dependence

We need each other. Eve was created out of a rib that came from Adam. Her very life was tied to him. She needed him. Adam needed Eve as his lifelong companion. Without her there was no suitable companion for him. Something was missing until she was brought to him. They needed each other. We need each other.

3. Human Companionship

We are made to live in fellowship and relationships with others. For many that involves marriage. Commitment to one person of the opposite sex in the most intimate of relationships.

For others, that involves deep, abiding relationships with those of the same sex or opposite sex. Life is better when lived in close relationships with others.

Jesus understood this. He surrounded himself with a handful of men who would become his closest companions. Even among them it seems clear that his relationship with three was at a deeper level. But He also have close friendships with females. Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene. Several other women who ministered to he and the apostles.