

I. Intro

A. Text: **Gen. 2:15-25**

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 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."*

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

*²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (**Gen. 2:15-25**)*

B. Series Overview

C. Marriage Crisis

II. Back To the Beginning

¹⁵ *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. (Gen. 2:15)*

A. Man was introduced to **stewardship** before being introduced to **his bride**.

Dress: *To do it, labor, work, care for the resources of another.*

Keep: *To watch, to protect, to have charge of.*

Steward: *a servant who has been entrusted with someone else's affairs, estate or finances. A person who manages the affairs of someone else's house.*

1. Work what God gave you.

¹⁶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Gen. 2:16-17)*

2. Freedom in operating under the authority of God.
 - a. Relationship fostered by obedience was the source of freedom.
 - b. Relationship fostered by obedience was the source of joy.
 - c. Relationship fostered by obedience was the source of security and confidence.

B. **Man** was alone prior to ever experiencing **loneliness**.

¹⁸ *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone... (Gen. 2:18a)*

1. Adam was created in the image and likeness of God Almighty
2. God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is in perfect communion with Himself.
 - a. Talks to Himself, Abides with Himself, complete in Himself.

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- b. No lack in God (All-sufficient one).
 - c. 3 Persons of the God head are distinct, yet never divided.
 - d. No need... in order to feel complete and validated as God.
 - i. For angels to worship Him.
 - ii. For galaxies to declare His splendor.
 - iii. For people to believe in Him.

** God did not create man because He was lonely. He created man because it was His passion to share His all-encompassing love with another who didn't deserve it.*

- 3. God wasn't lonely. Neither was Adam (in his unfallen state).
 - a. God created Adam with only 1 need: God Himself.
 - b. Yah (the creator of Heaven and earth)... blew His ruach into Adam's lungs.
 - i. Adam's very breath was the wind of God
 - c. And if that wasn't enough, God tangibly communed with Adam intimately in the garden.
- 4. God did not give Adam a wife because He was lonely. He gave Adam a wife so that Adam could share the love that He had encountered. And spread it. And multiply it.
 - a. Adam wasn't lonely. He was just alone (which ain't so bad at all... when you've got God for your reward).
 - b. Adam eventually experienced loneliness, but it wasn't until sin entered the picture and he was kicked out of the garden.
 - i. But in the beginning... Adam was alone AND loving it!
 - ii. The only bad thing about His aloneness was that he couldn't share the covenant love that He'd been freely given.

C. **Marriage** for mankind was on **God's** mind long before it was on **mankind's** .

¹⁸ *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." (Gen. 2:18)*

1. God proclaimed the word that He would make a help-meet for Adam.
 - a. **Help Meet for Him:** *Aid, encouragement, deliverance...*
 - i. Suitable, comparable, tailor-made for him.
 - b. God: *"I will..."*
 - i. Responsibility was on God.
 - ii. Adam didn't have game.
 - iii. Adam didn't have to go searching high and low.
That was God's responsibility
2. God proclaimed that He would do it, but the proclamation may not have been met with immediate fulfillment.

¹⁹ *Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. (Gen. 2:19-20)*

- a. While waiting on his bride, what did Adam do?
 - i. He continued to work, tend and keep,... steward.

D. While **Man** is sleeping... God is **at work**.

²¹ *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. (Gen. 2:21)*

1. Some of God's best work, He has to remove us from getting in the way.
2. God took a rib and did the miraculous.

Rib (tsela #6763): rib, side, beam

- a. Side/ Beam:

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- i. Hints at significance (value)
 - ii. Hints at position
 - iii. Hints at partnership

- 3. The first time Adam ever opened His eyes, what he saw... Who he saw was breathtaking.
 - a. Who Adam saw filled Him with so much awe that He dare not try to pronounce his name or describe His beauty.
 - i. I wonder if he fully recognized that just seconds before, he was no different than the dirt he stood next to.
 - ii. And out of that you made me to reflect your glory?
 - iii. Speaks to the creative, merciful wisdom of God.
 - b. But this time when Adam opened his eyes, who he saw was also breathtaking.

²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 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.” (Gen. 2:22-23)*

- i. This time Adam fully recognized that only moments before, what he was looking at was part of him.
 - ii. And out of this, you made her to project my glory?
 - iii. She was beautiful, flawless in his eyes...
- 4. This time, Adam had no problem articulating what he was beholding. He even named what it was that he beheld.

Issha: woman, a noble name of honor and distinction.

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- i. The most beautiful thing in the world (because she came out of Issh)

III. Conclusion

²⁴ *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Gen. 2:24)*

A. Leave and Cleave (**Matt. 19:5, Mk. 10:7, Eph. 5:31**)

1. Simple Definition
 - a. **Leave**: *let loose, forsake*
 - b. **Cleave**: *Enter covenant relationship, follow hard after.*
2. Not an issue of geographic proximity.
 - a. Issue of allegiance, passion, priority.

B. Best Piece of Marital Advice (**Almost**).

1. Forsake all others in allegiance, passion, and priority.
 - a. Cling to your spouse and only her.
 - i. Not spouse and kids.
 - ii. Not spouse and your mama.
 - iii. Not spouse and your son.
2. Others need to see you chasing hard after one another.
 - i. Your parents need to see you chasing hard after your wife.
 - ii. Your kids need to see you in love with your husband
3. If that clinging is strong and unmistakable, then everyone else is blessed out of the overflow of your love.

C. Best Piece of Marital Advice (**Actual**)

1. Forsake all others in allegiance, passion, and priority.
2. Cling to the one who loved you first.
3. Out of the overflow of the covenant bond with God, everyone else is blessed.
 - a. Your wife needs to see you leaving and clinging to Jesus.

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- b. Your husband needs to know that you love Jesus more than you love him.
 - i. If you really trust Jesus and His leadership, then you'll trust Him enough to submit to your husband and his (often) bad leadership.
 - ii. When both of you are hotly pursuing Christ, madly in love with Christ, unselfishly surrendering to Christ... It's easier to surrender to one another.