

02 | The Love of God

Daily Delight

Welcome to our second session on The Love of God. If you remember in our first session, we saw that from the very first chapter of the Bible that God is not only powerful and creative, but we see that He is a loving God, that He loves you and me, and that we are His masterpiece.

Now we're going to continue in the second session and go into a message titled, "Daily Delight." And let me tell you, this is one of my very favorite in this whole series, "Daily Delight." Now, we're going to actually look at creation but from a different perspective. I want to take you to the book of Proverbs. We're going to go to Proverbs 8. It says this in verse 12, we find out who's speaking, it says, "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion." So the person that we see speaking here in Proverbs 8 is this person called Wisdom.

Now, let's jump down to verse 22. And again, let me take you back to creation. It says, "The Lord possessed me..." (Remember, we're talking about wisdom.) "...at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth..." So again, I want you to see that this person of wisdom is saying that before creation ever took place, they were there. Now, let's continue in verse 26. It says, "While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth..." Now look at verse 30, He says, "Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men."

Now, in this teaching, we're going to take a look at these last few verses that we just read, because there are some clues in here that are going to show us who this person of wisdom is. And then, of course, we're going to unpack what that significance is for our lives. So, let's take a look at what these clues are. First of all, we see that this person is named wisdom. Is there anyone else in Scripture who goes by the name of wisdom? That's going to be our first clue. Secondly, we see in verse 30 that they say that they were a master craftsman, that they were literally beside God the Father as a master

craftsman. Now, what is a master craftsman? We're talking about someone who is not spectating, but they're involved, right? Their hands are in this. They are actively involved in the process of creation with the Father. In addition, we know that a master craftsman is someone who knows what they're doing. This is not a novice. This is not an apprentice. This is a master craftsman. So, that's going to be our second clue. And then thirdly, it continues and says, "And I was daily His delight..." So, this person of wisdom, this master craftsman, was the delight of Father God. Who would that be? And then lastly, our fourth clue is going to be what we find in verse 31, because He says that He was there rejoicing before the Father, but in verse 31 it continues and says, "Rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men." And that's going to be our fourth clue.

Now, before we dig into these four clues, I want us to turn to the end of the book of Proverbs and see one last look at creation and a hint towards who this person of wisdom is. In Proverbs 30:4-5, it says, "Who has ascended into heaven or descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth?" Again, here, they're asking the question, who is the creator? But then it continues and it says, "What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?" Now, here we're talking about the book of Proverbs, written at least a thousand years before Jesus. And it says, "Who is this creator? But

not only what is His name, but it says, what is His Son's name?" And so, we want to look and see, does Jesus fit all the other four clues that we just looked at in Proverbs 8?

So again, let's go to the first one. This person is called wisdom. Is there anywhere in Scripture that we see Jesus referred to as wisdom? Well, look with me at 1 Corinthians 1:23-24. It says this: "...but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and" (there you see it) "the wisdom of God." It refers to Jesus here, and it refers to Him as the wisdom of God. 1 Corinthians 1:30 says, "But of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption..." Now it does not say that Jesus had wisdom in this verse, it says that Jesus became wisdom for us. So I think we can say very clearly that that first clue Jesus ticks off, right? He was referred to as wisdom in other parts of Scripture.

Now, how about the second clue? Remember, it refers to this person of wisdom as being the master craftsman over creation. Now turn with me to John 1:1. It says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him, nothing was made that was made." Now, who are we talking about? We're talking about the Word, but who is the Word? Well, in verse 14, it says, "And the word became flesh

and dwelt among us..." The Word is Jesus, and here it says that in the beginning was the Word, that He was there. He was there in the beginning, and He was with God, but He was God. But check out what it says in verse three, it says that "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." It says that everything was made through Him--the birds, the waters, the sea creatures, the mountains. Everything on this planet it says was made through Jesus. I think that sounds like a master craftsman. And it goes on, and to emphasize this point, it says nothing was made without Him. There is nothing that you see around you today that was made without Jesus' involvement.

Now, I want you to see this in two other places in Scripture. In Colossians 1:15, it says, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." So again, I want you to notice that it says everything. All things were created through Jesus. There is nothing that we see around us that He wasn't involved in. But check out what it says in the latter part of verse 16. It says all things were created through Him, but also it says all things are created for Him. Now, something being made through me is very different than something being made for me. But I want you to see that Scripture says both about the person of Jesus, that all of creation was made through Him, but

it was also made for Him. And this is not the only place we see it. Also in Hebrews 2:9, it says, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste of death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Again, we see that not only was everything made through Him, but here the book of Hebrews says the same thing that we saw in the book of Colossians, that everything is also being made for Him, and it says it was fitting, it suited Him, that He would be the one to suffer, because everything was made through Him and for Him. And we'll dig into that a little bit more later. But again, I want you to see that Jesus repeatedly is referred to as the one through whom everything was made on this planet. And so definitely we can say, yes, He fits that title of being the master craftsman.

So now, let's look at the very third clue, because not only did He say that He was the master craftsman, but He said that also He was daily the delight of the Father. Do we see that in Scripture about Jesus? Well, in a prophecy that was made 700 years before He ever came, Isaiah 42:1, says this, "Behold! My servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles." Here, this is the Father speaking, and He is talking in reference to His Son coming. And He

says, this is the one in whom My soul, My emotions, delight. Jesus was the delight of the Father. Remember when He was baptized by John in the Jordan River? It says that God spoke and said, "This is My Beloved Son." Jesus is the delight of the Father. And even Jesus Himself refers to this in John 17:24 when He prays. He says, "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." This is what we're talking about, before creation, Jesus is saying, Father, You've loved Me. You've delighted in Me even before the creation of the world. So yes, we can see Jesus fits that third clue. He is daily the delight of the Father.

Now, let's turn our attention to that fourth clue. And really, this is going to be something that drives all the rest of our sessions together, because Jesus said, yes, I was there, I was the master craftsman. I was rejoicing in His inhabited world. I was daily the delight of the Father. But remember, He turned and said, but My delight, what I get excited about, what I anticipate, what I look forward to, He said, My delight was with the sons of men. He was saying that you and me, humanity was His delight. Do you have a delight? Do you have something that you look forward to every day? It just puts a smile on your face even to think about it. Could be your cup of coffee in the morning. Could be maybe that bite of chocolate. It could be a person, right? Your best friend or your spouse

or a child. Could be a favorite place where you like to sit and relax. We all have little delights, but I just want you to sit and take in what Jesus said, but My delight, what I look forward to, what I anticipate, what I enjoy, is the sons of me--it's you and it's me. And I want to go back to Genesis 3, because we're going to begin to see this in action with Adam and Eve.

Now, you remember after God created the heavens and the Earth that He created Adam and Eve, and He placed them in the Garden of Eden. Now, he gave them this command: He told them to enjoy everything but to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But here, we're going to pick it up in Genesis 3, and Satan, using the form of a serpent, comes to Eve to tempt her to do what God told her not to. And in Genesis 3:4, it says, "Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God knowing good and evil.'" So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sowed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." So here, Satan comes to Eve, and he tempts her by seeding doubt into her heart of what God's intentions are towards her. He's really telling her, "Come on, God didn't really mean that, right? God's holding out on you. Because the moment

you eat this, you're going to be like God." Now, she was already created in the image and likeness of God. But again, the enemy is sowing these seeds of doubt. "Don't believe what God has told you..." just like he does to you and me. And she listens to him, she listens to the doubt. She takes the fruit, she eats it. She gives it to Adam. He eats. And in verse seven it says, "Then..." Then, in that moment, when they disobeyed God, when sin entered the world, something significant took place. Adam and Eve, they are disconnected in their intimacy and fellowship with God in the way that they were created to enjoy it. In that moment, then, they were cut off, and see what happens, it says "...the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." What are they doing? Why is this their first response as soon as they sin? Again, remember, they were made in this perfect intimacy with God and with each other. There is no sin. There is no violation, right? There's not even the possibility of me being shamed. And this is what we were created for. I want you to understand this, you and me, we were created to be in this perfect relationship with God and with each other, without any fear.

Why is that the first thing that they did, as soon as sin entered the world? I want you to catch this, okay? They were created to enjoy perfect intimacy and fellowship with God. They were created to enjoy perfect intimacy and fellowship with one another. Without any fear, without any embarrassment, without any shame.

That's what they enjoyed in the garden before the fall. But all of a sudden, when sin enters the world, do does fear. All of a sudden, the possibility that you could hurt me becomes real. The possibility that you could shame me and embarrass me becomes real. And as a result, the first thing that they do is they hide themselves. They begin to make these fig-leaf coverings, and they begin to hide themselves. And again, this is what sin does. It makes us want to hide ourselves, want to protect ourselves, want to cut ourselves off from one another, the true, authentic version of ourselves, because of fear. And that is not what we are made for. But that is what Adam and Eve are experiencing because of sin. And it's what you and I experience as well, because of sin.

And in verse eight, it says, "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..." They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. It feels like from this passage that this is what God did, that He came to walk with them in the garden. Remember, God created us in His image and in His likeness to relate to us, to love us. So, of course, He's going to come down to be with them. Now, you can't prove it from Scripture, but I believe that this was Jesus, because He said I was daily the delight of the Father. But He says, My delight was with the sons of men. Who He delighted in were Adam and Eve. So, of course, He's going to come down to walk with them, to be with them. And when it says that they heard the "sound" of the Lord God, that

can also be translated as "voice." And who is the voice, or the Word, of God? It's Jesus. And so, as He comes down to walk with them in the garden in the cool of the day, it says that Adam and his wife, they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Now, just imagine what this would have felt like for the Lord. Here is His creation that He loves, that He delights in, and He wants to hang out with; He wants to be with and love. And as He comes to do that, it says that they run away from Him. Instead of running to Him, they run away from Him. And again, they're hiding themselves from Him. See, we don't just hide ourselves from one another, but sin makes us want to hide ourselves from God. And so they hide themselves from Him.

In verse nine, it says, "Then the Lord called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?' So he said, 'I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.' And He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree, which I commanded you that you should not eat?' Then the man said, 'The woman who You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.' And then the Lord said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?'" Can you hear the heartbreak of the Lord? Can you hear all the pain of what is happening inside of Him as He realizes what His creation, His delight, has done? But as we continue, God begins to talk about what is going to happen as a result of this sin that has entered in and the disconnection that has occurred.

In verse 14, it says, "So God said to the serpent: because you have done this..." (Again, I feel like we can really hear God is upset with this animal that Satan has used.) "... because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the cattle and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life." Now, look at verse 15. You know, if many of us were in this position of God, we would just be like, you know what, let's just start over. Let's just smush Adam and Eve back into the ground. Let's start again. Look what they have done. But that is not what happens here, because God told them that in the day you eat of it, dying, you shall die. They are set on the path of eternally being separated from Him. But He loves them. He delights in them.

And so, in verse 15, we see what many people call the protoevangelium. It's the first glimpse of the gospel, and we find it right here in Genesis 3:15. And it says, "And I will put enmity..." (Remember, He's talking to the serpent.) So He says, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Now, if you just read that for the first time, you might think, "What is He saying? I don't get this." Something about heels and heads and bruising. Let me walk you through it. He's again, he's talking to Satan. He says, I'm going to put enmity between you and the woman and between

your seed and her seed. Now, if you have a King James or a new King James Bible, you're going to notice that seed is capitalized the second time. Her Seed, and the reason it's capitalized is there is only one person who was born just of a woman. And that was Jesus, born just from Mary. And so here God is saying, "I'm going to put enmity between you and the woman in between your seed Satan and her Seed." He is speaking of one who is going to come through a woman but is going to be born perfect and live a perfect life. And it goes on and says, "He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel." He's going to live that perfect life, but then He is going to go to the cross, and He is going to be bruised, His heel is going to be bruised; He's going to experience pain, He's going to experience shame. But in the midst of that bruising of His heel, He is going to bruise your head, Satan. You know, head is a metaphor for authority. God is saying, "Yes, Jesus is going to experience pain on the cross like the bruising of His heel, but in the process, the authority that you have usurped right now through sin entering the world, that's all going to be taken back." This is the promise of a Messiah all the way in Genesis 3:15, because God did not want to live without His delight. He said, "I'm going to make a way. I know that you've chosen to sin in this moment and you've disconnected yourself from Me. But I'm going to make a way."

And again, I believe that this is even Jesus saying, "I'm going to come, and I will be the one who will allow My heel to be bruised so

that I can redeem you back to Myself" because you are His daily delight. Adam and Eve were His daily delight. He is passionately in love with us and He wants us for Himself. Listen to what it says in Titus 2:14: "Who gave Himself..." (referring to Jesus) "...for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." He willingly gave Himself for us because He wanted to redeem us for Himself. I hope you hear the ownership in this language. He's like, "You're mine. I want you for Me."

In John 14:1, Jesus is speaking to the disciples the night before He's crucified, and He's preparing them for what's about to happen. And He says, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am, there you may be also." Jesus wants us in the garden again. He wants to be able to walk with us like He did with Adam and Eve. And He's telling His disciples, "Yes, I'm going away." He knew He was about to go to the cross, but He says, "I'm not going away to abandon you. I'm going away to prepare a place for you because this is what I want for eternity. I want to be able to bring you to this place that I'm preparing and bring you to Myself--not just to heaven, not to the angels, not even to the Father." He says, "I want to bring you to Myself" because you're His delight, because you are

the one that He enjoys. And He's saying, "I want you with Me for all of eternity." But do you know that it's not just eternity; He wants to be with you and me right here, right now. You might not think a lot of yourself, you might not feel very worthy and deserving of God's love. None of us are. But He has chosen to place His love on us. And I don't know what your past looks like. I don't know if you feel disqualified from His love or from His plans and purposes for your life. But I want to remind you today it's not possible. God loves you. He has chosen to love you. Jesus loves you. You are His delight. And He wants to be with you right here, right now. But we have to open up our hearts and believe that He wants to do that. And so, again, I want us to pray today that we would receive this truth that we are Jesus' daily delight.

Father, we thank You again for Your Word and that we see, over and over again, it repeats the same message to us. You are a God of love and You love us with an everlasting love. We thank You that Jesus was willing to lay down His own life, to redeem us for Himself. Lord, may that become so real to each of us today as we go into this week that Jesus really delights in us. He really wants to be with us. He really gets excited when we come to Him in prayer, when we open up our Bibles. He wants relationship. So Lord, may our hearts open again in a new way to receiving that truth that we are Your daily delight. I pray this in Jesus' name, amen.