



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

A Beautiful Innocence!

Genesis 2:18-25

Message #3 of 50 – S900

Sermon given on June 21, 2020

@ Hawk Ranch, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Beautiful Innocence!

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Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 2**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- Happy Fathers Day!
- Let's pray and then get right into our text for today
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Beautiful Innocence!**
 - Genesis 1 described in brief language the creation of the entire universe and everything in it in six 24-hour days by the omnipotent power of God
 - Chapter 2 began with God ceasing from His work of creation and making the seventh day a day of rest and making it holy
 - And then in chapter 2 - an elaborated description of the God's highest creation – mankind – giving him a beautiful place and purpose
 - We will be picking it up in verse 18
 - God looks at His special creation and makes an observation
 - **Genesis 2:18a**
 - 'not good that man should be alone' – why is it 'not good' for the man to be alone?
 - God doesn't say specifically
 - To get the answer we need to go back to how God made man and what that means
 - Let's look back at **Genesis 1:26**
- Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."
- Notice – 'Us – Our image – Our likeness'
 - God didn't create mankind because He was lonely – God is never alone
 - The Triune Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are always together in perfect unity and community
 - Turn to **John 17**

- The Godhead experiences a type of oneness that cannot be comprehended by humans – A woman carrying a child may be the closest human equivalent, but that still falls far short of making something we can understand
- But one thing we know for certain – God is not alone
- Jesus alluded to that
- **John 17:20-23**
- If Adam was made in the image and likeness of God, then community was written into his DNA
- It was not good for Adam to be alone because he was created to be in community with other humans
- Being alone is not good for anyone
- Lately Kelly and I have been watching the reality TV show ‘Alone’
- It is a contest to see who can survive alone the longest in a wilderness environment
- We are in season 6 – ten people were dropped off in various locations in the Canadian Arctic
- Whoever lasts alone the longest wins \$500,000
- They carry cameras everywhere they go narrating their experience
- They talk about their motivation for being there – their past experiences that will help them – they all believe they can win and usually describe how they will use the money
- They describe the shelters they are building and what method they will use to provide food for the duration of their stay
- Most of them seem to come into the contest believe that it is primarily a physical challenge
- After about 21 days, two topics rise to the top – lack of food – loneliness
- Even the ones who are able to find enough food start talking about how much they miss their family
- They are out there, doing this to benefit their family financially
- Every season one or more contestant reaches an emotional breaking point, even ones who are succeeding at surviving
- They eventually get to a point that the money is not worth being alone for one more day- separated from their family

- Turn back to **Genesis 2**
- God looked at Adam and proclaimed that because he was made in the image and likeness of God that it was not good for him to be alone
- Brothers and sisters, we were created to be in community with other humans in relationships that conform to our likeness and image of God
- God tells us what He will do to remedy Adam's problem of loneliness
- **Genesis 2:18b**
- God would make someone who was similar to Adam
- We best understand what that means by looking at the Godhead
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are similar in many ways, but there are differences
- They are equal in all ways, but they are not the same
- They are individual but not separate
- That is what God is saying this new creature will be
- She will be similar to Adam but there would be differences
- She will be equal to him, but not the same
- She will be an individual but not separate
- There is nothing in the creation of woman or in all the Bible for that matter that describes her as inferior or servile
- Paul says it clearly **Galatians 2:28**
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- In God's eyes there is no place for sexism, chauvinism, feminism, or any of the other the ism's that divide our world, like racism
- So, God says He is going to create this special being for Adam, but then does something we might not expect
- **Genesis 2:19-20a**
- Notice first that the animals were made 'Out of the ground' which is similar to how God made Adam **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.
- Then Adam was given the job of naming all the animals
- This is an exercise of the dominion that God had given him over all creatures

- It also required that he examine them closely so as to give them names that matched what they were
- But God's purpose for doing this was found in the second half of verse 20

- **Genesis 2:20a**

- God awakened a sense of need in Adam through revelation.
- The work of naming the animals revealed to Adam that he was missing something, the animals had mates, he was alone.
- Even before Adam was aware of his own need God saw that this situation in his life was 'not good'
- This brings me comfort in the 'not good' things in my life
- God knows what is going on and He is preparing something in response **Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- The Bible tells us to pray – to bring our needs before God
- But you will never bring a need to God that He didn't know about before you did **Luke 12:30-31**

For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

- We pray to 'seek the kingdom of God' – where God reigns supreme
- That means aligning our heart to God's heart and seeking to conform our will to His will
- When is supreme in my heart and my will is completely surrendered to His will – He is free to add to my life whatever He wants to bless me with
- Then God meets Adam's need

- **Genesis 2:21-23**

- Notice, rather than making Eve out of the ground like Adam and the animal, God takes a rib out of Adam's side **Matthew Henry**
 "...not made out of his head to top him, not 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."
- Adam takes one look at this new creature and realizes instantly that the need he didn't know he had until God revealed to him has been met and he is overjoyed

- And then God does more than just bring them together
- **Genesis 2:24-25**
- Moses is writing this to the Israelites who have just left 400 years of bondage in Egypt
- Egypt is a symbol or picture in the Bible of the world
- You are probably well aware that the world has some strange ideas about marriage
- Sadly, even some in the church are confused about marriage
- The text we looked at this morning is the foundation upon which our doctrine of marriage is built
- Man has a need that can only be met by a woman who has a corresponding need
- God creates both the man and the woman and then sovereignly joins them together and changes them from two people to one flesh
- This one flesh is the closest picture there is in the world of the unity of the godhead
- Marriage is a beautiful and powerful thing when it is done God's way
- Jesus reaffirmed this teaching in the New Testament **Matthew 19:4-6**
And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
- We live in a world that wants to make its own rules
- It wants to define things like marriage according to its own view of reality
- We will see why that is next week
- One of our foundational beliefs is that marriage is defined as – one man joined by God to one woman for a lifetime
- Man has no right to redefine what God has clearly stated in His Word
- Some would say that Christians are being unloving when we stand against its views of things like marriage or abortion
- They consider it to be unloving to disagree with them
- But it is not us who disagrees with them – it is God – we are just agreeing with God
- In reality, it would be unloving if we didn't stand against those things

- God's way is perfect – it is the path to His abundance and blessings
- I love this text – there is a purity and innocence to it that is beautiful
- That purity and innocence has been lost because of sin but marriage still one of the most beautiful things God created
- I know this is not an easy topic for some people
- I want to leave you with three quick things
- First – **God knows what you need!**
- Whatever state your marriage is in – or has been – or you would like it to be
- Or if you are not married and want to be
- Pray! Give your heart more fully to Jesus! Ask the Holy Spirit to align your heart with God's will!
- Second – **God is working to meet your need!**
- God does what God is going to do when God wants to do it
- Trust God! Seek to be more like Jesus! Be ready to respond to the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Third – **God has defined all of life in His Word!**
- Align your worldview to God's Word – not to the world's view

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- We may have lost the innocence that our ancient ancestors had in the Garden of Eden but there is still a simple beauty in the things of God
- Verse 24 teaches me that Kelly and I are joined together by God
- The world might try to tear us apart, but our God is bigger and stronger than this world
- I will just put my marriage into His strong loving hands and trust Him
- Look for the simple beauty in God's Word and let it fill your heart with joy and hope
- **Pray!**