

The Perfect Match

Genesis 2: 18-25

INTRODUCTION

- A. Illustration about marriage on the top of the Rock of Gibraltar, Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations, #7408.
 - 1. This world needs more marriages which are established on rock--Today, more than 50% of all marriages end in divorce.
 - 2. If more marriages are established on rock, we can show the world that indeed good marriages are possible.
- B. God intended for marriages to be solid and good.
 - 1. Marriage is so serious that sexual immorality is the only reason to terminate a marriage and marry again (Mt. 19:9).
 - 2. "Marriage is honorable among all" (Heb. 13:4),
 - a. "Honorable" refers to something that is valuable, precious, of great worth or value.
 - b. Marriage is not something to be taken lightly--it's precious and valuable.
 - 1) We dare not enter marriage hastily--there's no turning back.
 - 2) We dare not get out of a marriage unless there's adultery involved.
 - 3) We dare not joke about marriage.
- C. Martin Luther said, "There is no more lovely, friendly or charming relationship, communion or company, than a good marriage."
 - 1. Marriage should be the place where our needs for love, friendship, communion, and company are met.
 - 2. Let's examine the first marriage to see why this is so.

MAN NEEDS COMPANIONSHIP, vv. 18-20

- A. God saw that it was not good for man to be alone, v. 18.
 - 1. Throughout Genesis 1 as God looked on his creation, he found that his creation was good—Over and over, Moses says, "And God saw this-or-that and saw that it was good."
 - 2. Yet, here God sees that his creation is not totally good, for it is not good for man to be alone. Man needs a companion.
 - 3. Notice it is God himself who says that it isn't good for man to be alone--it wasn't Adam who said this; it was God.
 - 4. Man is not complete by himself.
 - a. Man was not created to live by himself; God created man as a social being.
 - b. God created humans male and female so that man could have social interaction (Gen. 1:27)
- B. God decides to make a helper suitable for the man, v. 18.
 - 1. "Helper" means "assistant," "source of help."
 - 2. The helper God would make the man would be his assistant in life.
 - 3. This assistant would be comparable to the man--she would be like him.
- C. No helper was found among the animal kingdom, vv. 19-20.
 - 1. God brought all the animals before Adam to see what Adam would name them.
 - a. In the Ancient Near East, the right to name something or someone gave one superiority over what he named.
 - b. Naming the animals shows man's superiority over them.

- c. Man is to subdue the animals (Gen. 1:26).
- 2. No helper was found Adam among the animals.
- 3. This exercise seems to have had two purposes:
 - a. This would show Adam that he was superior to the animals, and
 - b. This would show Adam that he needed a companion, that he was alone.
- D. Man needs companionship to be complete.
 - 1. The Bible teaches that we need others to be complete.
 - a. "Two are better than one" (Eccl. 4:9).
 - b. When Jesus was distressed in the garden, he took Peter, James, and John with him (Mt. 26:37).
 - 2. Loneliness causes many problems.
 - a. A study by psychoanalyst Michael Whitneburgb, who runs stress clinics in Liverpool and London revealed that the greatest fear of the British is the fear of being alone.
 - b. Illustration about a himself Encyclopedia of 15 000 Illustrations, #7107.
- E. We cannot live to ourselves--we need to establish healthy relationships.
 - 1. This destroys the feminist concept that women would be better off without men--After all, woman was created for man (1 Cor. 11:9).
 - 2. This demonstrates the importance of marriage.
 - a. Some want to claim that marriage isn't that important, that it is really out-dated.
 - b. Yet, man needs marriage to be fully complete- "He who finds a wife finds a good thing" (Prov. 18:22).

GOD MADE THE COMPANION, vv. 21-23

- A. God caused Adam to go into a deep sleep.
 - 1. In Genesis, individuals would often sleep while God entered into a covenant with them.
 - a. God established his covenant with Abram in a vision (Gen. 15:1).
 - b. God established his covenant with Jacob while Jacob slept (Gen. 21:11).
 - 2. Here, man is about to enter into a covenant with his wife, and Adam sleeps while God acts.
 - a. Marriage is a covenant- "She is your companion And your wife by covenant" (Mal. 2:14).
 - b. In a covenant, both sides would appeal to a deity to show that their arrangement was unalterable—In marriage, we appeal to God to witness that our marriage is unalterable.
- B. God took one of Adam's ribs and closed up the flesh from where he had taken it.
- C. God took the rib and made the woman and brought the woman to the man.
- D. Adam awakes to End his wife. He exclaims:
 - 1. "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh."
 - a. This verse shows Adam's loneliness--it's almost as if Adam says, "Finally, I have a companion."
 - b. "Bone of my bones" is a Hebrew idiom similar to our "blood relations"--Adam recognized the woman as coming from him.
 - 2. The companion would be called 'woman,' for she was taken from man; The words for "woman" and for "man" are very similar in Hebrew.
- E. God made men and women the way they are.
 - 1. The differences between men and women aren't something to be dismayed about.
 - 2. There are many differences between men and women--men to be more analytical while women tend to be more emotional, women tend to like to talk openly about their problems while men tend to keep things to themselves.
 - 3. We need to appreciate these differences, for they come from God.

GOD CREATES MARRIAGE, vv. 24-25

- A. A man shall leave his father and mother.
 - 1. This refers to the social impact of marriage.
 - a. When two individuals marry, they decide to live with one another in a social contract.
 - b. Part of establishing that contract is leaving, one's parents.
 - 2. Leaving one's parents establishes the commitment to marriage--this is a new beginning.
 - 3. Young married people need to leave their parents.
 - a. They don't need to depend upon their parents any longer; they need to take responsibility for themselves.
 - b. Too many young people still depend upon their parents after they get married--when there are problems in the marriage, they go to Mom and Dad instead of trying to work out the problem with their spouse; when they want something they can't afford, they go to Mom and Dad and ask for money.
- B. The man shall be joined to his wife.
 - 1. This presents the idea of marital faithfulness.
 - 2. A husband and wife are to be joined together and live together.
 - 3. Things that are joined together aren't easy to separate--a husband and wife aren't to be easy to separate.
- C. The two shall become one flesh.
 - 1. This has reference to the sexual union--Paul applies this passage to sexuality (1 Cor. 6: 16).
 - a. God here creates sex.
 - 1) Sex is nothing dirty, nothing of which we should be ashamed.
 - 2) Sex is a beautiful act between a husband and a wife.
 - b. God here places sex in marriage. Sex is only to be enjoyed in marriage.
 - 2. Yet, this has reference to much more than just sex.
 - a. A husband and wife should really become one.
 - b. Their goals, hopes, aspirations, desires, etc. should be one.
 - c. A husband and wife need to communicate with one another so that this oneness can take place.