

Man's Joy Over God's Creation

(Genesis 2:18-25)

Yearly Theme: "Joy is..."

Series Title: *Joy Before the Fall*

January 26th, 2020

Something to think about:

Think of a person in your life (outside of God) that brings you joy. Is it your husband? Your wife? Your child/ren? A close friend? Your mom or dad?

We come to the final message in our January series on "Joy Before the Fall," in Genesis chapter two. After five days of creation, we come to the sixth day when God created the animals and the first man (Adam). However, something is different about this day; it's the first time we see God declaring something "not good," and this not good statement is tied to loneliness and a lack of joy and fulfillment. Let's take a look...

Genesis 2:18-25 (NLT),

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."¹⁹ So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one.²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening.²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

²³ "At last!" the man exclaimed.

"This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called 'woman,'
because she was taken from 'man.'"

²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

²⁵ Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

The key point this morning is this...

Key Point: "We should rejoice in God's creation, for what He created is good."

Let's break it down...

1. Adam is excited at the sight of Eve because she, literally, completes him as a suitable helper.

Genesis 2:21-22 (NLT), ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening.

²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

2. As a suitable helper, Eve is joined to Adam as an equal partner to govern all of God's creation on earth.

Genesis 2:23 (NLT), "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'"

3. In the perfectness of God's creation, Adam and Eve lived in complete joy, naked, unashamed, and in complete unity.

Genesis 2:24-25 (NLT), ²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. ²⁵ Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Something to take home:

Marriage of man and woman was perfect before sin entered the world. In the goodness and joy of God's perfect created order, man and woman thrived without any tension, dissension, competition, malice, hatred, secrecy, or doubt in God or each other. There was complete peace and harmony in their relationship, and this is how God intended it. There was no question of infidelity, there was no question of right and wrong (for only right existed), and there was no jockeying for position because both Adam and Eve held each other and God in high esteem.

When was the last time you rejoiced about your marriage, your relationships, and your relationship with God? Is your marriage like Adam and Eve's: *Confident, loving, and without shame or regret*? How about your relationships with others? Are your relationships fulfilling or draining? Are they satisfying and joyful, or are they complicated and full of drama?

How about your relationship with God? Have you (as the imperfect one in the relationship) confessed, repented, and now live in sweet fellowship and intimacy with the Father, or do you reject all belief in God and favor yourself as completely capable of saving yourself? Maybe you believe in God, but you struggle seeing that He really loves you and cares for you and desires for you to be in relationship with Him. Maybe you've been the one that has complicated your relationship with God, and you struggle with being able to forgive yourself and wonder if God can forgive you. Well, good news! God is good and loving, and He is ever willing to forgive the broken and repentant person. He stands with His arms stretched wide to receive all who would willingly humble themselves, admit that they can't do it on their own, and turn to Him for salvation.

It's only when this One Holy relationship (between us and God) is alive and well, that all other relationships find joy and fulfillment. And truly, God desires us to enjoy who and what He created.

Finally, we must continue to remember...

Key Point: "We should rejoice in God's creation, for what He created is good."

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KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ Is there anyone with whom you can be completely yourself? Who?
- ⇒ What makes transparency with this person possible?

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

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GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. In a couple sentences, explain what's going on in this passage of Scripture:

2. This is the first time in the creation narratives when God describes something as "not good" (v. 18). What does God describe as "not good," and why?

3. As a response to the "not-goodness" of Adam's situation, God brings all the animals that He creates to Adam. What does Adam do, and what does God conclude (vv. 19-20)?

4. In order to rectify the aloneness of Adam, what does God do (vv. 21-22)?

5. What is Adam's response to God's newest creation (v. 23)? What is the end result of God's creation of woman (vv. 24-25)?

6. The word in verse 18 translated as "helper," is "ezer" in the original Hebrew language. The word "ezer" is best translated as "strength." The woman was created not as a secondary compliment to Adam, but a co-equal partner to strengthen him by becoming one with him. What has happened to cause inequity and dysfunction within marriages and families today?

7. History seems to prove that societies past and present are at their strongest when marriage and families are strongest. Why do you suppose this is the case? What could societies do to promote healthy, strong families and marriages? How can the church help to fix this problem within the world?

8. If you have relationships that are struggling, what can you do to help fix/restore the relationship? Why is this important to God?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME** you rejoiced about your marriage, your relationships, and your relationship with God? Is your marriage like Adam and Eve's: *Confident, loving, and without shame or regret*? How about your relationships with others? Are your relationships fulfilling or draining? Are they satisfying and joyful, or are they complicated and full of drama?
- ⇒ **HOW ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?** It's time to be reconciled in all of your relationships: *marriage, parents, children, friends, co-workers*. Pray about how God can use you to restore what has been broken.
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Genesis 2:18, 23 and Matthew 12:25.*