

GENESIS 2:15-25

LESSON: A SUITABLE HELPER FOR ADAM — September 30, 2018

SYNOPSIS:

Man needed responsibility, so God planted a garden in Eden. In the midst of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river flowed out of Eden that parted into four heads (rivers) — Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel or Tigris, and Euphrates) (2:8-14).

LESSON: I. A NECESSARY BALANCE GENESIS 2:15-17

2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Man's position in the garden was a fulfillment of a need described in 2:5 *"...and there was not a man to till the ground."* So, the LORD God (Jehovah/Yahweh/Elohim) took the man into the garden **to dress it** (*from a root meaning to serve*) and **to keep it** (*to look after or to have charge of*). So we see man's purpose is to serve God by working and taking care of the Garden—the paradise in which he lives in. This is the most perfect, beautiful and bountiful paradise imaginable and God expected man to live in it and take care of.

- To till and cultivate the land.
- To dress the orchards, shrubs, and flowers.
- To feed and provide for himself and woman.
- To keep the growth under control.
- To look after and care for the animals.

The point is: man was created to be a responsible person and an active working person. There is no idleness, slothfulness, nor lazy man in the Garden; sitting back taking it easy; not doing the work of the LORD God! Also, man was created to have a strong sense of purpose and of self-worth. If a man's work is significant, then he has a reason for getting up in the morning and living, and he feels worthwhile. Man is a mental and emotional creature and needs that strong self-image that he is somebody, and that he matters to other people, especially to God! Therefore, the LORD God has given him responsibility and purpose.

2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:— There was a command given by the LORD God to the man, and there was a choice to be made. But really the command comes in verse 17 because it's apart of verse 16. There were so many trees in the Garden for man to eat freely of.

2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Now comes the command— *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it."* This is where the line is drawn and the choice to follow God or not; to obey or not, for if man doesn't follow the command, God says in the day that he

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eats of this one tree, he shall surely die. God does not want to coerce man. The intent of these two verses is to show a person who wills to live with God; who wills to love, worship and fellowship with God. God does not want man to be a robot. God wants man to have freedom of choice; the ability to choose to live either with God or apart from God.

1. God has placed a great incentive before man to choose life.

- A home in paradise • perfection: he was sinless • all the trees and food of paradise
- The tree of life, of immortality (2:9) • the love, presence, and fellowship of God • a helpmeet (2:18-19).

There was only one fruit man could not touch—only one fruit among all the fruit. There was no excuse for man ever choosing any fruit or anything over God. By choosing God, man had everything: every tree—all the abundance and benefits of paradise itself.

2. Therefore, man had to be tested to show that he loved God above all else; that he wanted to live with God. How well does man understand his Creator? How well does man understand a command of God? So, now man has to be concerned about life and death, good and evil.

- There had to be something for man to choose other than God; some object, some act, so he wouldn't be a robot, because everything was provided for him. But you say, but God commanded him. Yes, and what better way to honor the LORD God who made you— that is, by choice. We didn't ask to come into this world, but there are choices to be made.
- Man had to realize that there was a need in man to fellowship and interact with God. Man needed God's Words; needed God to tell him what to do and what not to do. Man cannot have differences between himself and God if true fellowship was to continue. Man had no idea what evil would taste or feel like. He was innocent, perfectly innocent; therefore, he did not know the difference between good and evil. Man had the ability to sin, but he also had the power not to sin. God set the course; He set the boundaries for man's life, as any parent would do. Man was to simply do what God said.
 - Obeying meant choosing life with God forever / disobeying meant choosing death, separation.
 - Obeying meant choosing fellowship with God / disobeying meant separating oneself from God.
 - Obeying meant choosing to serve God / disobeying meant choosing to serve self and Satan.
 - Obeying meant choosing to acknowledge God / disobeying meant rebelling against and ignoring God.
 - Obeying meant choosing to honor God / disobeying meant dishonoring God.

If man left the forbidden tree alone, he would be obeying God and choosing to live with God. If man ate of the forbidden tree, he would be disobeying God and choosing to walk his own way in life! The same is true for us. We have to choose; we have to make a decision. Jesus Christ, God's Son has paid a great price.

"Choose ye this day whom you will serve" Ps.31:14a.

"No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also" 1 Jh.2:23 (NIV).

"But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven" Matt.10:33 (NLT).

The bottom line is: if we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we obey God and choose to live with Him. The Bible speaks of three deaths.

1. Physical death is separation of man's spirit or life from the body.

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2. Spiritual death is man's separation of man's spirit from God while he is still living and walking upon earth. This is what *"surely die"* is speaking of.
3. Eternal death is separation of man from God's presence forever.

Death was not part of God's original plan for man.

AN INCOMPLETE EXISTENCE GENESIS 2:18-20

2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; — This idea of a companion for the man was never an afterthought of the creation of a woman for man in God's plan. When God saw His creation as *"very good"* (1:31), He observed that it was *"not good"* to not have man's counterpart standing at his side at the end of this sixth day. The phrase *"not good"* meant incomplete, unfinished, unfulfilled, deficient. Therefore it was not good for man to be alone; standing by himself without another human life to relate to; incomplete and deficient without woman as God planned it.

2:18b I will make him an help meet for him. — There is no record of man complaining about his loneliness. He fellowshiped with God; God was all he knew, all he had. This was God's decision. God decides to make man a suitable (face to face helper; not to be a slave or to be in subjection to him).

Matthew Henry wrote: *"She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to trample 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."*

Paul wrote that *"the woman is the glory of man"* (1Corth.11:7), for if man is the head, then woman is the crown that honors the head.

T. D. Jakes puts it this way: ¹*"The woman was made, fashioned out of the man, to be a help meet. She helps him meet and accomplish his task. In other words, if you have a power saw, it has great potential for cutting. However, it is ineffective until it is plugged in. The receptacle (the female) helps the power saw meet its purpose (the male). Without that receptacle, the power saw, although mighty, remains limited. Keep in mind, though, that she completed his purpose, not his person. If you're not complete as a person, marriage will not help you."*

The word **"meet"** or **"suitable"** (*keneghdo*) means fit, corresponding to, adapted to, agreeing with counterpart, opposite, equal to. It means woman...

- was created as a suitable helper for man.
- was created as a fit helper for man.
- was adapted to the nature of man.
- corresponded to the nature of man.
- agreed with the nature of man.
- was like the nature of man.
- was an opposite and equal being for man.

The point is: Help meet was a name God called the female gender that was suited for the occasion, a suitable helper; man's counterpart to function as a helper is elevating, not belittling. Woman was made by God to meet man's deficiency. **The point is** that man was only half of God's plan for human life. Woman was the other half. God's plan included the creation of woman just as His plan had included the creation of man. Man and woman were created as equal beings, as two equal beings who were to be equal companions to one another. Man was the stronger person physically. They differ only in that they have different roles and purposes upon earth.

2:19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. I have to make this observation that this is the very first verse where God speaks man's name—Adam. That's why I hadn't used his name until this verse.

¹ T. D. Jakes 365-Day Devotional & Journal—Healing, Blessings, and Freedom
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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It's always been **man or the man** (2:15). Also Adam is not named until we get to 5:2 *"Male and female created He them; and blessed them, and called their name "Adam" in the day that they were created."* It's always been understood in the day they were created but just brought to light now. We know that the birds and the beast were created before Adam (1:20-25). The Lord God had formed every beast of the field out of the ground, just as He did Adam, but man was made in the image of God, having dominion over the fish, the fowl, the cattle, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing... signifying his rule over them (1:26-28). The first job God gave Adam was to dress and to keep the Garden. He took him and put him in the Garden. This time the animals were brought to Adam to see what name he would give them as his second job. Whatever name he gave them, that was what they were called.

2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. Two things were accomplished as the animals passed by Adam:

1. First, names were given to each of the animals. Naming is an act of discerning something about the creature so as to appropriately identify it, and also an act of leadership or authority over which was named.
2. Second, Adam saw with his own eyes that each of the animals of God's creation was subhuman, inferior to him, no fit for him. There was no kinship with any of the animals. Adam was unique; he was the only one of his kind; no help meet for him. The animals were not on the same level as man. Although Adam didn't seem lonely, he had a lot to do, but there was no one that looked like him. However, God was preparing Adam for his helper; he would soon have someone by his side.

Adam didn't struggle trying to find a help meet; a counterpart. He didn't go to God asking where is someone for me? No, we find in verse 22 that God brings her to the man Adam. Men allow God to choose the right woman for you. Women allow God to choose the right man for you.

II. A PERFECT COMPLETION GENESIS 2:21-25

2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;— Not only did God recognize that man's solitude was not good, He took the steps to prepare the way to complete man (God's other part of the plan). Now, God had already made man, but now, divine anesthesia (putting man into a deep sleep) is administered by the Great Physician to create another being from the first. How awesome is this! The Supernatural Surgeon immediately goes into the side of Adam and takes out one of his ribs, and supernaturally closes up the flesh.

2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. Only one rib is needed! God tenderly and meticulously operated upon Adam and removed a rib from his body, and "Waa lah", (spelled Voila-French, for "here it is"): Woman is Created! God did not create the woman like the man and animal kingdom. Why?

1. Woman came *out of man's need*. Therefore, she was to *come "out of man's" being* (2:18, 21-23).
2. Woman was to be the object of man's *cleaving*. Therefore, woman was made out of man's being in order to cause a *natural clinging*, a reaching out for one another's own being, one another's own flesh (2:23-24).

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3. Woman was to be *one flesh* with man. Therefore, she was made out of the very flesh of man so that man and woman would have *identical natures* and stand as the *counterpart* to one another (2:22-23).
4. Woman came *out of man's flesh* so that both would cherish and nurture the other. No person hates his own flesh. The very opposite is true: he cherishes, protects, and cares for it (2:22-23; Eph.5:28-29).
5. Woman is the *glory and crown of creation*, the being who brings more refinement to the world than any other creature (1Corth.11:7).
6. Woman was created from the rib taken from the very side of man that protects his heart. Woman is that which gives so much meaning to man.

After creating woman, God then brings her unto the man; brought back to his side to unify him. That is why the husband is to leave... and cleave... The woman is brought before Adam, as were the animals. This is a declaration of the first marriage. This is performed and sanctioned by God alone. God is the Father and minister. God brings the two together as a father would bring his daughter, the bride to the man as he walks her down the aisle for the wedding ceremony. Matthew 19:6b says, *"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."*

2:23 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. Adam begins to announce *"Bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh"* which show that woman was taken out of him. And the rib also conveys the woman's equality with man. Therefore, after naming the animals, Adam is still on his job and out of joyfulness after awaking from the deep sleep, he looks at her, and Adam makes it known that she shall be called *"Woman"* because she was taken out of him. And because she was taken out of him, she shall always be a part of him, but softer, while he's the stronger vessel. And man and woman are to walk together side by side, not divided. We need to see that:

- Woman was equal to man in human life. She was also created in the image of God (1:27), just as Adam. She was like Adam (bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh) for she was taken out of Adam, and both were given *"dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth"* (1:26). This is not superiority and inferiority, but order and priority. Neither man nor woman was superior or inferior to the other in the beginning of creation, not in being or purpose. True order is not found in domination, but in voluntary submissiveness and love

However, in the order of things someone has to be first; someone has to be the head or leader of the structure. Man was created first, and woman was created as a suitable helper for man (2:18b).

2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Because Woman was taken out of man, she has the same nature as man and she was literally bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh, so intertwined. This verse gives the illustration of marriage based upon the unity expressed in verses 22 and 23 and it overrides the clinging to one's parents and depicts oneness and unity, illustrating marriage—Man is **not to cling** to his parents. Man is **to leave** his parents and **cling** to his wife and be made one. Therefore, man and woman become one flesh. God told **them** (man and woman) to be fruitful and multiply (1:28), so, marriage (as the first institution upon earth) is establishing a new bond of oneness. Three rules of the marriage bond.

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1. There is to be a *leaving of parents*. The relationship shifts between persons of the family.
2. There is to be a *cleaving to each other*. They are joined to each other; man is glued to his wife.
3. There is to be *one flesh*. There is to be physical intimacy (sexually) so binding that the two become one flesh; one unit; joined to; bound together in unity as one.

The institution of the marriage relationship:

1. Marriage was instituted by God and not by man, thus God's Word must give us the proper guidelines.
2. Marriage was, and is to be monogamous; God gave Adam one wife.
3. Marriage is to be heterosexual (sexually attracted to the opposite sex), no other kind of way.
4. The husband and wife are to be unified physically and spiritually.
5. The husband is to be the head of the wife because God later instituted it in 1 Corth.11:3. This passage explains God's order of authority. It is not because men are superior.

2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. Man and woman were created perfect, innocent, nothing hidden, and without shame. They had done nothing wrong and sensed no guilt or shame whatsoever. They were able to be around each other; comfortable with each other, for they belonged to one another: their bodies belonged to the other, and together they belonged to God. They stood before God and before each other in perfection.

SUMMARY:

The LORD God put man in the Garden of Eden to dress and keep it. They could eat of every tree of the garden, but was commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Garden of Eden met man's need to live forever, but if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would surely die (2:15-17).

The LORD God said it was not good that man should alone. He already had the solution to His statement. Woman was the answer! She would be man's help meet, meaning a suitable counterpart for man. From the ground God had formed every beast of the field, every fowl of the air, and He brought them to Adam to name. As Adam named them, there was not found a help meet fit for him; none of his essence/nature (2:18-20).

The LORD God causes Adam to fall into a deep sleep and prepares his body for surgery. The LORD God takes one rib out of Adam's side and then skillfully closes up that part of the flesh He had opened. God creates a woman fit for Adam and brings His creation before Adam and Adam calls her "*Woman*", bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh because she was taken out of man. Therefore, shall a man leave his mother and father and cleave unto his wife to be one flesh; one in unity physically and spiritually. Both the man and woman were naked, and they were not ashamed as man and wife (2:21-25).