

NEW DAY SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Genesis 2 zooms in on one specific moment of the six days of creation: The special creation of the Woman. On this Mother's Day we take time to celebrate the beauty and power of the Woman. May all our sisters in Christ know today: Whether married or single, a mom or not, you're God's special creation as a Woman. May you feel honored, and may you be challenged to be the woman God has called you to be.

I. SCRIPTURE

A. GOD CREATES MAN FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND (4-15)

Verses 5-6 of Genesis 2 tell us: No crops were yet growing. (Man didn't have to cultivate ground.) And there was no rain. (God made a special watering system.)

7 Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

The next few verses describe in great detail the Garden of Eden, a paradise.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

In Eden there were no thorns, thistles or weeds. But man still had work to do caring for the garden. God created a man with an innate desire to work and care for things. Work is not bad – it's not the curse. (We'll revisit this next week.)

B. GOD SAYS IT'S NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO BE ALONE (16-18)

Earlier in Genesis 2 (verse 9) we read that God put two special trees in middle of the garden: "The Tree of Life" and "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." In v. 16-17 God told Adam, do not eat of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. "When you eat from it, you will certainly die," God said. (We'll study why next week.)

Adam is in paradise, but there's something missing. For the first time, God says something is NOT good:

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

C. GOD CREATES THE WOMAN (19-21)

Adam needs to feel how special this new creature is. She is someone just for him. So God first tells Adam to name all the animals. He parades the animals in front of Adam so he can see he's not like them.

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.

We'll read in the next verse that God fashions the woman out of Adam's ribs. Why did he do it this way?

Matthew Henry observed: "The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor 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."

D. GOD BRINGS THE WOMAN TO THE MAN (22-23)

God brings to Adam the most beautiful woman in the history of man, the only woman perfectly created and unmarred by sin. God himself is both the father of the bride and the minister of the ceremony.

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

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

E. GOD'S COMMENTARY ABOUT MARRIAGE (24)

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Jesus quoted this passage and said it was the Creator himself who said this. It's not a later comment from Moses. God said it. And then Jesus added to it: "Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matt. 19:6).

Here in this one verse we see:

- Marriage is to be the start of a new family unit. "Leaving father & mother."
- It is to be one biological man with one biological woman.
- The man and woman are to be united, "cleaving like glue," in the most intimate of relationships, a sexual union, something only one man and one woman can do together.

F. NAKED AND UNAFRAID

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

God has created in our hearts the desire to be fully known and fully loved. It's the top desire in the heart of every person.

Only Adam and Eve have experienced that level of intimacy in a human context.

(By the way: A Christian marriage pursues this uninhibited intimacy out of an unselfish desire to honor God and love your mate. We can only accomplish this with God's help.)

II. APPLICATION

In Genesis 1-3 we see three important descriptions of the Woman.

- 1:27: "made in God's image."
- 2:18: "a helper suitable" for her husband.
- 3:20: Adam names her Eve which means "the mother of all living."

Those three descriptions give us three things to celebrate today. They also clarify how and why the woman is specially created by God.

NOTE: The world, the flesh and the devil battle to pull the woman away from her calling.

- The world tells you: be like a man, fight for equality. This lowers your value.
- A woman's own sin nature (flesh) drives her to pursue worldly pleasure and dominance instead of self-sacrifice.
- The devil wants us to fight against one another and against God.

So we must set aside our prejudices and the forces of the world, flesh, and devil, and open our minds to what God in his Word is teaching us here.

A. Celebrate the Female as beautifully created in God's image.

The female is "made in the image of God" according to Genesis 1:27.

1) Implications of the female "made in the image of God."

- (a) Women aren't inferior; you and I are equally created in his image.
- (b) The woman expresses a side of God the man cannot: Maybe his compassion, his kindness, or his relational strength. Without the woman, men are inadequate to express the full nature of God.
- (c) But it also means she is different, created a beautiful, special creature.

The final act of God's creative work was the creation of the woman. Only after the completion of the woman does he look around and say, "This is very good." One commentator said in describing the creation of the Woman: It's as if God said _____.

God made the woman the most beautiful creature of all.

2) Application of the female made in image of God: Recognize the special nature of the Woman.

(a) Godly men: We treat women differently, as our sisters in Christ.

NOTE: A Christian man should never pretend to be a woman or dress like a woman. That dishonors this beautiful creature made in God's image.

(b) Godly women: Encourage one another to be great women. (Titus 2)

B. Celebrate the Bride as a helper perfectly suited for her husband.

To be called a "helper" is not demeaning. In almost every other passage in the Old Testament, the word is used to describe _____! The word is sometimes translated _____.

Therefore, in the church, we should recognize and celebrate this special role.

Women are created by God to want to be "needed."

NOTE: Satan will twist this, tempt you to want to rescue a bad man. Don't marry someone who's untrustworthy. And make sure he's a believer.

NOTE: The fact that you're wired to be a helper doesn't require you to get married. (See 1 Corinthians 7.)

In the church, let's recognize a woman's God-given nature.

(1) Ladies, teach your daughters....

(2) Men, if God has given you a helper...

(3) If you're single, understand what you're looking for in a godly spouse.

Ladies: Find a godly man who needs a helper but not a provider.

Men: Find a godly woman who will be your friend, your secret strength.

C. Celebrate your Mom as deserving special honor.

SCRIP: In Gen 3:20 (we'll study next week) Adam names his wife Eve, "because she's the mother of all living."

Only a human female can house, feed and give birth to another human. Your mom did this for you! She deserves honor for that.

NOTE: No man can do this! To allow men to pretend to be women dishonors womanhood.

Therefore: in the church: Let's honor the role of mother.

Let's encourage our young women...

Let's honor our moms today and always.

CONCLUSION

What a blessing to be surrounded by so many godly, beautiful women. You sisters in Christ have worked on your inner beauty, which the Bible says is more valuable.

[Pro 31:30 NIV] 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Let's decide we will honor our sisters in Christ as God's special creation.

Illustration: Imagine you're in charge of moving the Mona Lisa...!

Each woman in your life is worth more to God than that painting. Make sure you honor her.

INVITATION

The best way to honor your mother is to make your own life matter. Make her thankful that she sacrificed to give you life. The only way to make your life truly matter is to give your life to God. If you honor God with your life and become a great person, your mom will get partial credit.

If you've not yet surrendered your life to God, why not today?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Reflecting on the Purpose of Work The sermon notes that God put man in the garden to work before the "curse" of sin ever occurred. How does knowing that work was part of God's original "paradise" change the way you view your daily chores or your professional career?

Scripture: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Genesis 2:15 NIV)

2. Understanding the Need for Community God observed that it was "not good" for man to be alone, even though he was in a perfect environment. In what ways have you seen the "not good" effects of isolation in your own life or the lives of those around you?

Scripture: "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" (Genesis 2:18 NIV)

3. Valuing Equality and Differences The outline quotes Matthew Henry, noting that the woman was made from Adam's side to be his equal. How can we better celebrate the unique "relational strengths" women bring to the church and family without viewing them as inferior or identical to men?

Scripture: "Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man." (Genesis 2:22 NIV)

4. Redefining the Role of "Helper" The term "helper" is often used in the Old Testament to describe God himself. How does this perspective shift your understanding of a woman's role as a "suitable helper" in marriage or the church?

Scripture: "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" (Genesis 2:18 NIV)

5. Pursuing True Intimacy and Vulnerability The sermon mentions that Adam and Eve were "naked and unafraid," having a desire to be fully known and fully loved. What are the biggest "thorns" or barriers today that prevent couples or friends from achieving that level of uninhibited, godly intimacy?

Scripture: "Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." (Genesis 2:25 NIV)

6. Prioritizing Inner Character The conclusion emphasizes that a woman's fear of the Lord is her most praiseworthy trait. For both men and women in the group, what practical steps can you take this week to prioritize "inner beauty" and spiritual growth over the "fleeting" standards of the world?

Scripture: "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." (Proverbs 31:30 NIV)