



10/17/25

On this week's episode of the Chosen and Cherished podcast, we talked about how we can tangibly bless the Lord from our souls... by trusting Him. All the reasons to bless the Lord given over 3000 years ago are still true today. If you'd like to listen to the episode, here's the link ~ <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 2:18-25

The 6th day of creation was a very busy day. God spoke all the livestock and animals of the earth into existence. Then He took dust from the ground to form man, and He breathed life into him. But that's not how He created the woman. What was God's plan in this?

Vs. 18 ~ Then... after telling Adam His one rule... don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... the LORD GOD... Yahweh Elohim... said that something was "not good." This is the first time He said "not good." What is NOT good?

He said, "It is NOT good that man should be alone." Oh no! What's the solution? Was Adam supposed to figure it out? No. The LORD GOD... the personally invested unique, all powerful God, knew the problem and He had the solution. "I will make him a helper fit for him." God has all wisdom, all knowledge, and all power... He knew that Adam could not fix his problem. But the Lord could... and did... but not in the way I would expect.

I would think God would see the need and immediately meet the need. But God knew He had to help Adam see the need first. Otherwise, he might take God's gift for granted.

I know in my own life that I can take so much for granted. I took walking and running for granted for years. I ignored the signs that I was doing damage to my ankles. And then my left foot got so bad that I could barely walk without specific shoes. My right foot wasn't much better. I had to have surgery on both ankles... one year apart from each other. It took me a

LONG time to recover. I do not take walking and running for granted anymore! I'm so thankful to be able to walk and even do a little running now. I had to know what I was missing so that I would appreciate what I have. That's basically what God did for Adam. Adam just wasn't aware that he was missing something... yet.

How cool is God that He sees what I'm missing and then helps me to see it, too! How loving He is... that He provides for me what I could never provide for myself.

Vs. 19-20 ~ "Now out of the ground the LORD GOD... Yahweh Elohim... had formed every beast and bird." He brought them to Adam so that Adam could give them names. He didn't even make Adam go search them out. He gave Adam a job, but He didn't make it so difficult that Adam wouldn't have the energy to do it. He gave Adam the privilege of naming the animals and He didn't veto any of Adam's choices.

"But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him." I imagine Adam got a little more discouraged with each animal he named. Wait... these are great animals, but who can I be in relationship with where we connect spiritually, relationally, and physically? Who will be my helper?

Now... as a woman I could think, "Wait a minute. I'm just a helper? Doesn't that make me inferior to man?" But the answer to that is an emphatic NO. This same Hebrew word for helper is used to describe the LORD!

- Psalm 33:20 ~ "Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our HELP and our shield."*
- Psalm 121:1-2 "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my HELP come? My HELP comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."*

The Lord is my helper, and I KNOW He is NOT inferior to anyone! This is about my role, not a measure of my worth. Let me not forget... without the woman, God said, "It is not good." When He made both man and woman, His completed masterpiece of creation was VERY GOOD. Both man and woman matter to God.

Vs. 21-22 ~ God knew exactly what He was going to do for Adam, and He graciously let Adam see his need so that he would see God's provision as a gift, not something He would force upon Adam. The LORD GOD was the first anesthesiologist of all time. He caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. I wonder if He had Adam count backwards from 10. I imagine opening up Adam's side while he was awake would have FREAKED him out!!!

God took a rib from Adam's side and then closed up his flesh. I think this is really cool. He took from Adam's side... not his foot where the woman would be inferior to him... not his head where the woman would be superior to him... but from his side where the woman would be a team with

him... unified in purpose.

It says, "The LORD GOD... Yahweh Elohim... used the rib to build the woman." There is something so unique about the relationship between man and woman... we are part of each other! It reminds me of Jesus' words in John 15 when He said, "Abide in Me, and I in you." Be so united that you don't know where one ends and the other begins. What a beautiful picture of the relationship God meant for husband and wife! This was before they fell and everything changed... part of the restoration process when someone comes to know the Lord as Savior is restoring the beauty of the relationship between husband and wife... because Ephesians 5 tells us that there is a MUCH BIGGER picture here than the horizontal relationship between man and woman. Marriage is a model of the oneness and intimacy of the relationship between Jesus and His bride, the church... believers. I praise God that He continues to change us so that even our marriages become a symbol that points to the perfect love of God.

Just like God brought the animals to Adam, He brought Eve to Adam... He didn't make Adam search her out. He gave her to him as a sweet gift. There was no map he had to follow with lots of clues until he found her. God blessed Adam with Eve. And Adam loved the blessing!

Vs. 23 ~ Adam woke up... rubbed his eyes... saw this woman before him... probably rubbed his eyes again and pinched himself to make sure he wasn't dreaming. And he said, "WHOA!!!" I bet Adam saw Eve and was the first to praise God saying, "Now to Him who is able to do FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY than all we ask or think be praise!" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Adam felt his side and realized this beautiful gift was taken from his body. He said, "AT LAST! This is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. I will call her 'Woman... ishshah' because she was taken out of 'man... ish.'" The man and woman could have deep connection that was unmatched. This was very good.

Vs. 24-25 ~ "Therefore... because the LORD GOD built woman from man to give him a helper who would be perfect for him... a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Ummm... Adam and Eve didn't have any parents. So... what does this mean? Their relationship was a model of God's plan for ALL marriages to come... one man, one woman. One flesh... united spiritually, relationally, and physically. Joined together, nothing coming between them, not even their parents.

Husband and wife, Adam and Eve, were so united that they were naked and unashamed... experiencing an intimacy between themselves that no one else would get to experience with them. This is the model of marriage for all time. One man... one woman... XY chromosomes united to XX chromosomes. Naked... exposed... vulnerable with each other in every way... spiritually, physically, emotionally, relationally... and unashamed. This is VERY GOOD.

God's gifts are pleasant and good... both beautiful to our senses and fulfilling our needs. He is generous. He is able to do what no man can do. It is HIS plan... and no man can change His plan no matter how hard he tries or how many ways he tries to define it.

O LORD GOD, You are in charge and in control. Your plan is good. I worship You for Your goodness and authority and power. I praise You that You have all wisdom and knowledge to accomplish Your purpose. I trust You to carry out Your plan in my life even when I don't understand. I thank You for using 31 years of marriage and counting to help restore the image of God in me that You designed. I know that marriage is not to make me happy, but holy... and yet as we offer ourselves to You in our marriage, we find more and more happiness as well. Romans 15:5-6 is my life prayer for my marriage... and I see You answering this one degree of glory to the next... "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." O Lord, may it be so.