

Marriage ~ East of Eden

Gen 3.20-24 ~ July 24, 2011

Marriage on My Mind

- ❖ Monday night past ~ Wedding Renewal
- ❖ Saturday next ~ Courtship Conference
- ❖ Major points today
 1. Marriage as intended at Creation
 2. Marriage as affected by the Fall
 3. Marriage as a tool of Sanctification

Point 1 ~ Marriage as Intended at Creation

God Hires Adam

- ❖ **Read Genesis 2.8-9, 15**
 - ⇒ I want you to think about this story very differently . . .
 - ⇒ God gave Adam a cushy job ~ “to tend and keep [the garden]”
 - ◆ The job was in a great environment ~ a beautiful garden
 - III: Summer intern presentation (cubicle slide)
- ❖ **Read Genesis 2.16-17**
 - ⇒ As Adam’s boss, God gave him some guidelines
 - ◆ “you may eat of the trees . . . except that one”
 - ⇒ This is reasonable ~ We have them too
 - ◆ At UP we can dress as we like ~ No ties required
 - But we can’t wear jeans, t-shirts, or sneakers

God gives Adam an Employee (a Direct Report) . . .

- ❖ **Read Genesis 2.18**
- ❖ Note that it’s not because Adam was short handed
 - ⇒ God just didn’t want Adam to be lonely ~ “it is not good . . .”
 - ◆ “**Garden of Eden, Inc**” cares about its employees ~ “*What a boss..!*”
- ❖ Being sinless, Adam is a great boss / Eve is a great employee
- ❖ Note also that Eve is more than an employee
 - ⇒ They enjoy intimate relations – experiencing oneness like no other has
 - ⇒ And Adam is also responsible for her ~ She is like a bondservant

Xition: But let’s get back to marriage . . . ;-)

Adam's Need of Eve

❖ Read Genesis 2.19-20

- ⇒ In **v18** God states a problem and proposes the solution
 - ◆ But He doesn't just tell Adam this . . .
 - ◆ He makes Adam aware through a training exercise
- ⇒ 1st new employee training class at "**Garden of Eden, Inc**"
 - ◆ By this animal naming exercise God proved Adam's need of a mate
 - Males and females were shown to be the proper design

The Solemnity of Marriage

❖ Read Genesis 2.21-24

- ⇒ Some might not see a marriage or a wedding ceremony in this story
 - ◆ No tuxedos or gowns, no best man or maid of honor, no ring
 - ◆ But there is beautiful ceremony here
 - There is drama, poetry and passion
- ⇒ Jesus refers to this text as a marriage in **Matthew 19.3-6 (read)**
- ⇒ Note also that this is an arranged marriage
 - ◆ A loving father engaged in selecting a suitable mate for His son
 - ◆ But first, he educated him on unsuitable mates (**Proverbs 7 – harlot**)

The Beauty of Marriage

- ❖ Even east of Eden we can see the beauty in marriage (2 illustrations)
- ❖ III: In 1971 a man named Paul Stookey wrote a song entitled "*There is Love*"
 - ⇒ "*He is now to be among you at the calling of your hearts, Rest assured this troubadour is acting on His part. The union of your spirits, here, has caused Him to remain. For whenever two or more of you are gathered in His name. There is Love. Well a man shall leave his mother and a woman leave her home. They shall travel on to where the two shall be as one. As it was in the beginning is now and 'til the end. Woman draws her life from man and gives it back again. And there is Love.*"
 - ⇒ It's widely known as "**The Wedding Song**"
- ❖ III: Poem concerning woman coming from man's side (1st time I was a boy)
 - ⇒ "*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.*" ~ Matthew Henry Commentary on Gen 2.22
- ❖ We've considered marriage as instituted by God in the Garden

Xition: Now let's see how the curse affected it . . .

Point 2 ~ Marriage as Affected by the Fall

The Fall refers to Death / Fall also known as Curse (“as far as the curse is found”)

- ❖ Read Gen 2.17 ~ “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”
 - ⇒ Note that death only referenced in God’s punishments (*with Adam*)
 - ⇒ God does not repeat Himself ~ Death comes as promised

Curses on Eve (and all women)

- ❖ We’ll skip the temptation, fall, blame-shifting and punishment of serpent
 - ⇒ We’ll begin with Eve’s sentencing
- ❖ Curse upon Eve ~ **Read Genesis 3.16**
 - ⇒ She will suffer:
 1. increased sorrow in life,
 2. increased pain in childbirth,
 3. and an unpleasant subjection to her husband’s rule
 - ⇒ “*Ask you: Is this not the world we live in?*”
 - ◆ But remember, this is often tempered with God’s mercy and love . . .

Curses on Adam (and all men)

- ❖ Read Genesis 3.17-19 ~ (*Note 3 verses, not just 1 – 29 vs. 99*)
 - ⇒ !!!: Standing before parents, drill instructors or CO
 - ⇒ Creation is cursed because of his sin
 - ⇒ This affects man’s ability to rule over it & benefit from it
 - ◆ Man must work hard (“toil” and “sweat of your face”)
 - ◆ He will be opposed (“thorns and thistles”)
 - ⇒ Note that work itself is not the curse ~ work preceded the fall

What could have been . . .

- ❖ “*If man had not sinned, he would always have ruled with wisdom and love; and, if the woman had not sinned, she would always have obeyed with humility and meekness; and then the dominion would have been no grievance: but our own sin and folly make our yoke heavy. If Eve had not eaten forbidden fruit herself, and tempted her husband to eat it, she would never have complained of her subjection; therefore it ought never to be complained of, though harsh; but sin must be complained of, that made it so. Those wives who not only despise and disobey their husbands, but domineer over them, do not consider that they not only violate a divine law, but thwart a divine sentence.*” ~ MHC on Genesis 3.16

Xition: Let’s jump ahead to v22 in chapter 3 . . .

God Fires Adam

❖ Read Genesis 3.22-24

❖ To resume and extend our earlier metaphor

- ⇒ Adam is fired from his cushy job (“God sent him out of the garden”)
- ⇒ Security escorts him from the premises (“He drove out the man”)
- ⇒ And stands guard to keep him out (“He placed cherubim at the east”)

Imagine Their Situation

❖ They lost their job and their home

- ⇒ “Garden of Eden, Inc” was the only employer on the planet

❖ They’re thrown out on the streets – but wait . . . no streets, or street lights

- ⇒ “*Can you imagine the darkness that covered the earth that day?*”
- ⇒ How frightened they must have been . . .
- ⇒ What did they do those first few days . . .

Did They Fight with one Another? ~ Sure

❖ They’d already started to in God’s presence (*blame shifting*)

- ⇒ “What have you done Adam?”

◆ Adam: “Don’t look at me – She did it . . .”

- ⇒ “What have you done Eve?”

◆ Eve: “It’s not my fault... I was tricked by that talking serpent...”

❖ Then outside the garden the conversation may have gone like . . .:

- ⇒ Adam: “Why did you have to eat it?”

- ⇒ Eve: “Why do you keep bringing that up? You were there too. You ate it.”

- ⇒ Adam: “Yeah, but I didn’t eat it first. I wasn’t even looking at it until you handed it to me.”

- ⇒ Eve: “Oh, go ahead, blame me. But aren’t you supposed to be the ‘leader’. Well, lead on. Or do you think blaming me qualifies?”

❖ How often did they blame one another – repeat this same argument?

- ⇒ When did they finally let it go and forgive . . .

Point 3 ~ Marriage as a Tool of Sanctification

The Curses Upon Adam and Eve Reflect the Besetting Sins of Mankind

❖ Adam was made to work / lead ~ yet man often shirks that responsibility

❖ Eve was made to help (*not lead*) ~ women often assume that responsibility

Xition: But this is exactly where marriage comes in . . .

Learning Obedience

- ❖ Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden
 - ⇒ As a perfect, sinless couple they gave in to temptation
 - ◆ God knew they would / This came as no surprise to Him
 - ⇒ So marriage is obviously designed to endure despite sin
 - ⇒ Marriage is a benefit to sin-filled couples too
- ❖ In **Heb 5.8-9** we read this about Jesus
 - ⇒ “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”
 - ⇒ Even Jesus learned obedience through suffering ~ it perfected Him
 - ⇒ We too will “learn obedience through the things suffered”

Marriage Makes us Vulnerable

- ❖ Marriage brings many pleasures and joys to the couple
- ❖ But it also brings us much suffering
 - ⇒ Love for our partner in marriage makes us vulnerable to being hurt
 - ⇒ Each partner in marriage will be wronged by the other
 - ⇒ Each time you’re wronged you face a choice . . .
 - ◆ Will you 1) forgive (*in heart*),
 - ◆ 2) kindly confront / rebuke, or
 - ◆ 3) fight to protect yourself
- ❖ III: Gladiator: Chained to one another and thrust into arena
 - ⇒ Will they fight together as a team –or–
 - ⇒ Will they regard one another as a liability (*as unequal and despised*)

Marriage Makes us One

- ❖ Marriage unites a couple / it makes them 1 (*but it only starts then*)
 - ⇒ Truly becoming 1 takes effort / time
 - ⇒ The process exposes our individual sins to one another
 - ❖ III: Merger of 2 companies (*merging departments, shedding duplication*)
 - ⇒ To obtain the value sought can take years
- Imagine you were Adam or Eve when ejected from Eden
- What could have made it worse?
 - To not have your partner with you

Let’s Pray