

Origins: Lesson 9

Marriage: A Gift From Eden

When Nazi Germany marched its troops into Austria and then “annexed” Czechoslovakia in the late 1930’s – signaling Adolf Hitler’s dangerous and frightening intentions – the response from the rest of Europe was startling at best: It did nothing. It wasn’t long before most of the people of Europe were subjugated to tyranny and slavery, and Britain stood alone against the Fascist forces. Only the courage and faith of the British people – rallied by their determined new prime minister, Winston Churchill – enabled them to withstand the onslaught of the Nazi’s and, with the help of the United States and the Allied forces, gradually turn the tide of the war.

The crisis was resolved, but only barely; and the cost was staggering. Millions of men, women, and children lost their lives in the battle for freedom. Churchill called it the most preventable conflict in history, saying, “Never was a war more easy to stop than that which has just wrecked what was left of the world from the previous struggle.” Some suggest that we are fighting a different war today, a war of ideas revolving around the institution of marriage, and that this is not the time to be indifferent, or to do nothing. What does the Bible say about marriage and what advice does it offer to make this and any relationship (parent/child, brother/sister, friends, employer/employee) soar?

Memory Text: Gen. 2:18: “And the LORD God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

“God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. ‘Marriage is honorable’ (Hebrews 13:4); it was one of the first gifts of God to man, and it is one of the two institutions that, after the Fall, Adam brought with him beyond the gates of Paradise. When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man’s social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature.” – Patriarchs & Prophets, p. 46

Lo Tov

Gen. 1:31: “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

Gen. 2:18: “And the LORD God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Heb. 10:25: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.”

Matt. 19:10: “His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.”

Gen. 2:19, 20: “¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature that was its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.”

“After the creation of Adam every living creature was brought before him to receive its name; he saw that to each had been given a companion, but among them ‘there was not found an help meet for him.’ Among all the creatures that God had made on the earth, there was not one equal to man. And God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.’ Man was not made to dwell in solitude; he was to be a social being. Without companionship the beautiful scenes and delightful employments of Eden would have failed to yield perfect happiness. Even communion with angels could not have satisfied his desire for sympathy and companionship. There was none of the same nature to love and to be loved.” - Patriarchs & Prophets, p. 45

A Companion For Adam

Gen. 2:20, 21: “²⁰...But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.”

Matt 19:4: “And He answered and said to them, Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female’?”

Gen. 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.”

Ideal Marriage

Mark 10:7-9: “⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,⁸ and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Eph. 5:22-25: “²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

1 Pet. 3:1, 7: “¹Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives...⁷Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Rom. 12:10: “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”

“The best way to educate children to respect their father and mother is to give them the opportunity of seeing the father offering kindly attentions to the mother, and the mother rendering respect and reverence to the father. It is by beholding love in their parents that children are led to obey the fifth commandment.” – My Life Today, p. 278

Protecting What’s Precious

Matt. 5:27-29: “²⁷You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

Job 31:1: “I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?”

John 8: 3, 10, 11: “³Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst...¹⁰ When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, ‘Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?’ ¹¹ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’”

Marriage as a Metaphor for the Church

Isa. 54:5: “For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.”

Jer. 3:20: “‘Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel,’ says the LORD.”

Eph. 5:28-32: “²⁸So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh

and of His bones.³¹ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

Rev. 19:5-9: “⁵Then a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!’ ⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!’ ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

“In both the Old and the New Testament, the marriage relation is employed to represent the tender and sacred union that exists between Christ and His people. To the mind of Jesus the gladness of the wedding festivities pointed forward to the rejoicing of that day when He shall bring home His bride to the Father’s house, and the redeemed with the Redeemer shall sit down to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” – Desire Of Ages, p. 151