

IBC Sunday 23rd July 2017
Pastor Mike

Series Introduction: Title “Beauty for Ashes” Isaiah 61:3

The Ugly Brokenness of Man – The Beautiful Restoration of God

1. Shame, Guilt & Regret (3 Best friends of Despair)
2. Anger Bitterness (Formula for Destruction)
3. Anxiety Stress Depression (The life blood of Failure)
4. Addictions (Grasping for Nothing)
5. Parenting (A Grace Filled Experience)
6. **Marriage (Total Sacrifice)**

Message: **Marriage: Total Sacrifice**

Text Verses: Gen: 2:7-25

Introduction:

Honeymoons are delightful times. The word itself virtually drips with the freshness and excitement of young love. The term seems to have been coined to convey the idea that the first moon, or first month, of marriage is the sweetest and most satisfying. But that’s not exactly the way it ought to be. God would be pleased for our marriages to get better as time passes. Every new month should be sweeter and more satisfying than the one before. Unfortunately, some marriages have turned out just as the word honeymoon implies—the first month was the best, and everything has gone downhill from there. Maybe we can help reverse the trend by looking into the Word of God for a picture of a Marriage of Total Sacrifice.

The Scripture does not specifically say so, but I have a feeling the honeymoon lasted much longer than a month for Adam and Eve.

Only God knows how many months or years of pure ecstasy lie between chapters two and three of Genesis. But no human relationship ever surpassed theirs in those early days for sheer joy and rapturous delight. It was, without a doubt, the perfect marriage.

Consider it for a moment. If ever a marriage was made in heaven, this one was. It was perfectly planned and perfectly performed by a perfect God. First he sculptured Adam (Gen. 2:7). Molded by the Master Maker, Adam doubtless had a flawless

physique and ruggedly handsome features. And he was made in God's own image (Gen. 1:27). That means he had a Godlike personality—perfect intellect, emotions, and will. He possessed a brilliant mind, undiminished by sin. He had faultless emotions, including tender and totally unselfish love, the love of God Himself. And he had a will that was in complete harmony with the purposes of his creator. Women, wouldn't you like to have a man like that? Physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually perfect!

But let me tell you about Eve. "So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man" (Gen. 2:21, 22). Adam must have gazed at Eve with awe and appreciation. This was God's creative genius at its best, unblemished grace and beauty, pure loveliness of face and form. Fashioned by the hand of God Himself, Eve had to be the most gorgeous creature who ever walked the face of the earth. And like Adam, she was made in God's image. Her mind, emotions, and will were unaffected by sin. What man wouldn't go for a woman like that?

Adam immediately recognized her similarity to himself. He 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" (Gen. 2:23). It seems that without any special revelation from God, Adam instinctively knew that Eve was made from him; she was part of him; she was his equal; she was his complement and counterpart. He called her woman, "female man." He drew her to himself in tender love. She ended his biting loneliness and filled his life with happiness. She was just exactly what he needed. And nothing brought her more satisfaction than the assurance that her husband needed her so very much. What intense and indescribable pleasure they found in each other's company! How they loved one another! At the end of Chapter 1 God called this completion Very Good!

Their home was located in Eden, the perfect place (Gen. 2:8). The word Eden means "delight," and delightful it was. Well-watered at the fountainhead of four rivers, Eden was a luscious green paradise, blanketed with every beautiful and edible growing thing (Gen. 2:9, 10). They cultivated the ground, but as they had no thistles or weeds to contend with, their work was totally effortless and enjoyable. Side by side they lived and labored in perfect harmony, sharing a sense of mutual interdependence, enjoying a freedom of communion and communication, possessing a deep-flowing affection that bound their spirits to each other. They were inseparable.

Through this account of the first man and woman we get an idea of what God intended for our marriages and we also get an idea of why marriages can go so terribly wrong. Let's first look at a few positives in marriage that God intended...

- 1) **The Purpose of God in Marriage** (this is not a comprehensive list)
- *Covenant* – v. 23/24 built on love and sacrifice (Husband Love your wife)
 - *Companionship* (time, interest, activities, communication)
 - *Children* (Gen. 1:28 – be fruitful and multiply, children should be born in the context of marriage)
 - *Co-workers* (They worked together they completed each other)
 - *Co-Witness* (they were equally created in the image of God)

2) The Priority of God in the Marriage

- *Comfort of God's order* (Man was made first, the woman for the man)
- *Communion with God* (they met God regularly, passionately)
- *Cleaved to each other* (joined without separation, God completed and ordained their union...they were incomplete without each other and incomplete without God)

3) The Purity in the Marriage

- *In their Behaviour* (toward each other - no sin, no strife, no fighting)
- *In their Thought Life* (Toward God and His creation - this was before sin entered)
- *In their Affections* (they loved God and each other - even though love was not mentioned in Gen. account we know the Love of God sustained them to be nurtured in His love)

4) The Permanence of the Marriage

- *God hates divorce* (Malachi 2:13-16) (Matthew 19:5-6 "What God has joined together let no man tear apart) you have no right to break apart what God has ordained!
- *God hates a vow that is broken* ("It is better not to vow than make a vow and break it") Ecclesiastes 5:5

5) The Pre-Eminence of God in the Marriage

- *Adam loved Eve the way he loved God*
- *You will treat your spouse the way you treat God*
- *God built their marriage* ("Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it") Psalm 127:1

Closing:

- Don't you wish your marriage reflected this marriage that God hand crafted Himself? You are not alone in your wish...even Adam and Eve didn't enjoy the benefits of marriage as God intended.
- For through this first man sin entered into the world (Gen:3) sin defiled what God delighted in.
- Maybe your marriage reflect more of the defilement than the delight...God has an answer!!
- The answer is Jesus – as sinful man trust and rest in a righteous Saviour it is possible to have a marriage that God delights in....but apart from Jesus, you can do nothing.

Genesis 2:7-25

New King James Version (NKJV)

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

Life in God's Garden

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. ¹¹ The name of the first *is* Pishon; it *is* the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where *there is* gold. ¹² And the gold of that land *is* good. Bdellium and the onyx stone *are* there. ¹³ The name of the second river *is* Gihon; it *is* the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river *is* Hiddekel;^[a] it *is* the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river *is* the Euphrates.

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but 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."

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹ Out 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. ²⁰ So 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.

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. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

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."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.