

## Contrasting Seasons of Faith – Loneliness and Companionship

- I. Introduction
  - A. Opposite Circumstances
    - 1. Loneliness
      - a. Facing death
      - b. Enduring cruel and undeserved conditions
      - c. Without an equal partner
      - d. Following God amongst pagans
      - e. Close friend leaving
    - 2. Companionship
      - a. Presence of another human
      - b. Presence of the Lord
  - B. Today's examples
    - 1. Old Testament
    - 2. New Testament

### II. Loneliness

- A. Period of time without an equal – Adam (Genesis 2:4-7, 15-25)

“**2:4** This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created – when the LORD God made the earth and heavens. **2:5** Now no shrub of the field had yet grown on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. **2:6** Springs would well up from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. **2:7** The LORD God formed the man from the soil of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. . . . **2:15** The LORD God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for it and to maintain it. **2:16** Then the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat fruit from every tree of the orchard, **2:17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die.” **2:18** The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion for him who corresponds to him.” **2:19** The LORD God formed out of the ground every living animal of the field and every bird of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. **2:20** So the man named all the animals, the birds of the air, and the living creatures of the field, but for Adam no companion who corresponded to him was found. **2:21** So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was asleep, he took part of the man’s side and closed up the place with flesh. **2:22** Then the LORD God made a woman from the part he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. **2:23** Then the man said, “This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” **2:24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife, and they become a new family. **2:25** The man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.””

- 1. God’s creation has been described as “good” nine times (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31, 2:9, 12) prior to verse 18. Man’s being alone is described as “not good.” For the first time, something is described

as “not good.” Mankind is instructed to “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (1:28). However, man alone is unable to accomplish this.<sup>1</sup> A tension in the narrative has been introduced. God has determined that He “will make a suitable helper for him.”

2. Following the parade of animals before the man, a suitable helper was still not present. The man’s proclamation in Verse 23 (“this one at last”) indicates that he recognized his loneliness sometime during this process. Although numerous animals were observed and named, man still lacked a companion. The attempted resolution to the tension did not succeed. The stage is now set for the Lord to build the solution – the woman.
3. The woman is not someone who is superior or inferior to the man. The man and woman are equal. A helper is one who comes alongside another to assist and provide what is lacking. Teamwork and mutual aid is apparently present in the terms. The man-woman team is stronger and more capable of succeeding when working and existing as a cooperating unit rather than two individuals.
4. The Lord knew who would make the best person suitable for Adam. This attests to His omniscience for He knew exactly the type of person that Adam needed. This also attests to His omnipotence and sovereignty for He is able to create whatever He desires.
5. The man’s “helper” was to be one who helps rather than one who hinders. God was the One who made and shaped her. This was not Adam’s task. She was God’s best for him.

#### B. Following God Amongst Pagans

1. Noah (Genesis 6:5-12) – “**6:5** But the LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind had become great on the earth. Every inclination of the thoughts of their minds was only evil all the time. **6:6** The LORD regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was highly offended. **6:7** So the LORD said, “I will wipe humankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – everything from humankind to animals, including creatures that move on the ground and birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them.” **6:8** But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD. **6:9** This is the account of Noah. Noah was a godly man; he was blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God. **6:10** Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. **6:11** The earth was ruined in the sight of God; the earth was filled with violence. **6:12** God saw the earth, and indeed it was ruined, for all living creatures on the earth were sinful.”

- a. Intense peer pressure
- b. A sense of isolation

2. Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-18) – “**19:1** Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, including a detailed account of how he killed all the prophets with the sword. **19:2** Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah with this warning, “May the gods judge me

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<sup>1</sup> NET Bible, translation note 55.

severely if by this time tomorrow I do not take your life as you did theirs!" **19:3** Elijah was afraid, so he got up and fled for his life to Beer Sheba in Judah. He left his servant there, **19:4** while he went a day's journey into the desert. He went and sat down under a shrub and asked the LORD to take his life: "I've had enough! Now, O LORD, take my life. After all, I'm no better than my ancestors." **19:5** He stretched out and fell asleep under the shrub. All of a sudden an angelic messenger touched him and said, "Get up and eat." **19:6** He looked and right there by his head was a cake baking on hot coals and a jug of water. He ate and drank and then slept some more. **19:7** The LORD's angelic messenger came back again, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, for otherwise you won't be able to make the journey." **19:8** So he got up and ate and drank. That meal gave him the strength to travel forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. **19:9** He went into a cave there and spent the night. All of a sudden the LORD spoke to him, "Why are you here, Elijah?" **19:10** He answered, "I have been absolutely loyal to the LORD, the sovereign God, even though the Israelites have abandoned the agreement they made with you, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left and now they want to take my life." **19:11** The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD. Look, the LORD is ready to pass by." A very powerful wind went before the LORD, digging into the mountain and causing landslides, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the windstorm there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. **19:12** After the earthquake, there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a soft whisper. **19:13** When Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his robe and went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. All of a sudden a voice asked him, "Why are you here, Elijah?" **19:14** He answered, "I have been absolutely loyal to the LORD, the sovereign God, even though the Israelites have abandoned the agreement they made with you, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left and now they want to take my life." **19:15** The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came and then head for the Desert of Damascus. Go and anoint Hazael king over Syria. **19:16** You must anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to take your place as prophet. **19:17** Jehu will kill anyone who escapes Hazael's sword, and Elisha will kill anyone who escapes Jehu's sword. **19:18** I still have left in Israel seven thousand followers who have not bowed their knees to Baal or kissed the images of him.""

a. Felt as if he was all alone

C. Departure of Jesus and Arrival of the Holy Spirit (John 15:7-16) – "**16:7** But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I am going away. For if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you. **16:8** And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong concerning sin and righteousness and judgment – **16:9** concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; **16:10** concerning righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; **16:11** and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. **16:12** "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **16:13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own authority, but will speak whatever he hears, and will tell you what is to come. **16:14** He will glorify me, because he will receive from me what is mine and will tell it to you. **16:15** Everything that the Father has is mine; that is why I said the Spirit will receive

from me what is mine and will tell it to you. **16:16** In a little while you will see me no longer; again after a little while, you will see me.””

#### D. Applications

1. Sometimes God allows us to recognize our need for companionship before he provides companionship.
2. Sometimes God needs to prepare us to receive a companion before He provides a companion.
3. God will not allow us to be tempted to sin beyond what we can endure without providing a way out.
4. Although we may feel that we are in a unique situation, we are not. We cannot live according to our feelings. We live based upon truth.
5. Jesus, who was only temporarily present with the disciples, had to leave so that the Holy Spirit, the One who is within all believers, could arrive.

### III. Companionship

A. Spousal Companionship (Genesis 2:23-25) – “**2:23** Then the man said, “This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” **2:24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife, and they become a new family. **2:25** The man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.””

1. They are to be inseparable in the idea that they share and experience life together. This includes the good and the bad, joyful and sad times, healing and pain. Intimacy is involved in this relationship – spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual.
2. “Leaving” implies independence, “cleaving” implies permanence, and “one flesh” implies intimacy.

B. Believer Companionship (Hebrews 10:24-25) – “**10:24** And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, **10:25** not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.”

#### C. Companionship with God

1. God the Father (1 John 1:12-13) – “**1:12** But to all who have received him – those who believe in his name – he has given the right to become God’s children **1:13** – children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband’s decision, but by God.”

- a. Believers are God’s children.
- b. Father and child confer companionship.

2. God the Son (Hebrews 4:14-16) – “**4:14** Therefore since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. **4:15** For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin. **4:16** Therefore let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace whenever we need help.”

3. God the Holy Spirit

- a. Baptizes
- b. Permanently Indwells
- c. Helps
- d. Intercedes
- e. Convicts
- f. Gives life
- g. Sanctifies
- h. Permanently Seals
- i. Fills / Controls
- j. Produces Fruit
- k. Gifts
- l. Teaches
- m. Leads / Leads
- n. Sends into Service
- o. Regenerates

#### D. Applications

1. Be your spouse's companion and allow your spouse to be your companion.
2. Spend time with fellow believers. Be active in the community of believers.
3. God is always our companion
  - a. Matthew 28:18-20 – "**28:18** Then Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **28:19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **28:20** teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.""
  - b. Hebrews 13:5-6 – "I will never leave you and I will never abandon you. So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

#### IV. Conclusion

- A. Individual Prayer
- B. Corporate Prayer