



Week #6: MERGE

1. GOALS

- a. What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God (Part 2)/ How do we find happiness?
- b. What is the Good News of the Scripture in regard to marriage?

2. GENESIS 2:7-9

- a. Immediately notice God's love for matter—matter *matters*.
- b. He "fashions man out of clay" and breathes His own life into the man—an incredibly intimate act.
- c. He who creates the universe out of nothing becomes *matter* in the Incarnation.
 - i. Is the goal in life to be spiritual or holy?
 - ii. Does the problem lie in our bodies or our wills?
- d. God then places man in a garden (Paradise). God then gives the man trees and plants. Man is called to till the soil (work is not a product of the fall; it's one of the ways in which man participates in the generativity of God.)
- e. 2:16-17: The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - i. God enters into a covenant with us, not a contract.
 - ii. What is God offering man in the tree of knowledge of good and evil?
 1. _____
 2. and it involves _____.
- f. Essence of the command: Do not presume to take for yourself the ability to determine, on your own, apart from Me, what is good and what is evil.

3. GOOD NEWS REGARDING MARRIAGE: 2:18-25

- a. "It is *not* good!"
- b. Seven times before this, God has said, "It is good!"
- c. It is not good for the man to be alone. Why?
 - i. What does man need help for?
 1. Work? Reproduction? Friendship?
 2. Man needs help to be human because man is created to be loved and to love, in that order.
- d. "Helper"?
 - i. Not a servant.
 - ii. *Ezer* (*one who helps*) is found 21 times in the OT, 19 times it refers to God's divine assistance.
 - iii. "Fit for him" "Facing him" "apt for him."
 1. God says it's not good for man to be alone. And then He...brings the man animals. Why?
 - a. God is intensifying man's desire.

- iv. 2:21: "A deep sleep": a trance-like state where God is about to do something dramatic.
- v. 2:21: "a rib": It guards his heart and shows she's made of the same stuff as the man.
 1. God fashions the rib into a woman and presents her to the man: like a Father presenting his daughter to the man.
 2. Not an exchange of property, but of God saying, "This is My daughter, My beloved. Love her! Care for her!"
- vi. 2:23: "This one, at last...!"
 1. For the first time, man speaks! Finally, here's one who is like me...but not like me.
 2. He names her. In naming her, he names himself.
 - a. By her presence there, in front of him, he comes to understand who he is.
 - b. By standing in front of the man, she says to the man, without ever opening her mouth, "You are made for me and I am made for you. We are made for love. That's why I'm here. That's why we exist."

4. HOW DOES THE HUMAN PERSON FIND HAPPINESS?

- a. Nothing else will make us happy because we were made for love!
- b. 2:24: "Therefore a man leaves his father and mother..."
 - i. "One flesh."
 1. One in everything: a total partnership of life.
 2. There are still 2 people in this relationship, but everything one has the other now has. This is a covenant.
- c. 2:25: "Naked and not ashamed."
 - i. This is a "limit experience." You and I have no idea what this was like.
 - ii. Since the fall, the history of relations between men and women has been tragic.
 1. There really was a time when man and woman only loved: there was no exploitation, no use, no lust, no desire to be lusted after. There was just love.
 2. And the good news is that we can actually live that way again in the sacrament of marriage.



Week #6: MERGE

Notes

A large area containing two columns of horizontal lines for taking notes.

QUOTES:

“The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.” Gen 2:18
 “The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame.” Gen 2:25

QUESTIONS for reflection/discussion:

1. How do I understand God’s prohibition to “not eat of the tree”?
2. How would you describe to your children the meaning behind “the tree”?
3. Where in our culture do I see that we practice what God prohibits?
4. Having heard what woman as “helper” really means, how do I understand the relationship between man and woman?
5. Based on Genesis 2, how might I now answer the question, “How do I get to where I am going?”

For next week: Read and reflect on Genesis 3:1-13.