

Topic	The Heart of Missions – The Glory of a Good God
Reference	Genesis 2:4-25
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Today we're going to look at Genesis chapter two and Genesis chapter two is very important. It answers a lot of questions to life;

- Where do we come from?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Morality?
- Where we going?

Basically, the main thing about Genesis chapter two is that our purpose is to reflect the glory of our good God. We're designed for glory, we are purposed for glory, and we're relating for glory. Now, Judges 2:4-7

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

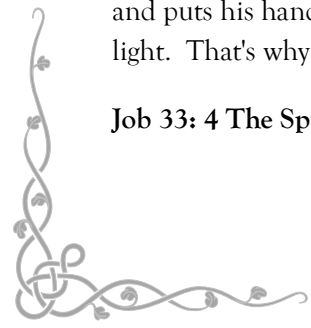
The word generation is like to bear children. The 'Lord God', this is the word called Yahweh. In chapter 1 they used Elohim and Yahweh is a more personal name of God. It means, he is transcendent, he is separate, one case as more caring and involved in the creation of man. And Genesis chapter 2 is a recapitulation of what happened in chapter one on the sixth day. It is not a sequential. There are some people who interpret this as sequential. God created human beings in chapter 1 and then chapter 2, out of all the human being got two special one, and then they become the chosen race and then the rest, then they explain that's why Cain got his wife, because the people were created before. **Not so.** So, if you look very carefully, this is a recapitulation of what actually happened in chapter 1. It describes a very barren place where there is nothing, there is no vegetation. All there is just the mist that comes out of the ground and see the way God has described.

7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Here in chapter 1 God says let there be light and there was light. Let there be land and there was land. Let there be this and that. He creates by his voice. In chapter two, the author goes into graphic detail how he does it, and there's a reason why he does it. He says, God gets personally involved. In chapter 2 you are seeing that there is dirt. All that man is, is dirt and in Old Testament dirt is a symbol of frustration, of defeat, of worth nothing. When people actually mourn the dead, they take the dust and throw upon themselves. It's a sign of defeat, of frustration.

God comes down and takes what is worthless and gets his hand. He is trying to tell you, God get his hands dirty and puts his hand on his mouth onto this, and he creates a man, breathes into this and this becomes a creature of light. That's why Job writes,

Job 33: 4 The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.



Genesis 2:8-14 (ESV) And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

In the Old Testament times, only a rich person can have a garden. And here Adam is described as the richest man alive,

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.

But in the middle of the garden, there was a tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And there's a whole description of what garden Eden is describing, the fall river, Tigris, Euphrates, and the two other rivers, and then around all this land is gold and Deleon. Why is the author doing this?

The author is doing this to tell you that this is a historical place, you actually have Euphrates and Tigris to this day. The other two, we don't know. So therefore Eden is lost, we don't know where it is. But the important thing is that this is a historical geographical place where God has put man with divine care, a life of full of possibilities, and here he is in the garden and there's a tree of knowledge of good and evil, and then the tree of life. The tree of life is important because this is where it gives you eternal life. In chapter three where the man sins, God says you better kick him out the garden because if he takes the tree of the fruit of the tree of life, he will live forever in an evil state. And that would be a terrible thing, so he kicks him out. But you see revelations, the tree of life is back again.

Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations

So, at the end of time, at the beginning there's a garden of Eden and tree of life. At the end, there's also a tree of life, which means God purposed for mankind eternal life. And then right in the middle garden,

Genesis 2: 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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."

So here you actually have a garden. Full of possibilities where men is made to flourish. It is human flourishing, but in obedience. You can have everything you want in life, but there is obedience. There is the law. Why? Because that is a sign of being a creature. God gives you everything except the fact that you have to recognize you are a creature and so therefore it is human flourishing in obedience.

If you contrast this to the ancient near East, at the same time when Moses wrote this, people in Babylon describe the beginning of time and what they describe is that this is the Enuma Elish where there's a god, Marduk and how does he create men

7 I will create Lullû—man 8 On whom the toil of the gods will be laid that they may rest.

So therefore man is supposed to work very hard like those mice running in the wheel, so that the gods can rest. It is put down here

And had imposed the service of the gods upon them

So man here is a slave in ancient near east writings with the Babylonians. The Sumerians have a different idea. They've got this god called Enki.

The gods were digging the canals and piling up the silt in Harali. The gods, dredging the clay, began complaining about this life. His mother Nammu brings the tears of the gods before Enki and says, Oh my son, arise from thy bed, from thy (slumber), work what is wise, Fashion servants for the Gods, may they produce their (bread?).

So again, man is made to make bread for the gods, isn't it? All right. And then you've got a flawed random creation.

Enki looked at the one with both feet broken, the one with paralysed feet and ...him for work of ...and the silversmith and she fashioned one, a third one born as an idiot. Enki looked at this one, the one born as an idiot and decreed his fate: he appointed him as a servant of the king

You see when atheist get together, they condemn. The reason why they don't believe in God. They say, what kind of God is it? You've got Enki, who produce somebody with paralyzed free, somebody idiot and all that. Now what kind of God is this? If God is so powerful, how can you create, paralyzed feet, idiots and all these other things? There must not be a God. But Genesis chapter 2 tells you there was a time. There was a time, way back in time when God made everything perfect. Now, either wise you will believe like Steven Hawkins that

We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the Universe. That makes us something very special."

If that's your outlook in life, then it's very, very depressing. It. If you look at ancient Greek after the Persian Wars, they decided to give citizenship only to the men. You know why they are Bumiputra, Athenian male sprang from the soil, the first Bumiputra are actually Greek. So they stole it from that idea. Okay. The American Whites actually looked down at the blacks because of Samuel Morton. In 1851, the Charleston Medical Journal in South Carolina praised Samuel Morton for giving a Negro his due position as in if you're a race. Why? Because they looked at all the skulls. The Negro skulls were a bit smaller, so the brain is also smaller, so they must be inferior. And so therefore they use all these characteristics to discriminate against various people.

The biblical implications that we cannot treat people better or worse based on race, social status, gender, riches, accomplishments, jobs, military rank, or even royalty. We are to love and serve people. Matthew 25 talks about in the last days, the people are supposed to ask Jesus,

Matthew 25: 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Which means whoever you treat, whether it's Chinese, Indian, or Malays, rich or poor, male or female, as you minister to them, you minister to God and if you mistreat them, this is Isaiah chapter 1.

Isaiah 1: 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. 16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the

evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, 17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause

Because each person is made in the image of God, so therefore you cannot oppress them.

WE ARE PURPOSED FOR GLORY

Why are you born? Why are you here today? We are here, not only designed to bring glory to God, we have a purpose. Ancient idea work in Enuma Elish is the man is to work for the gods, so therefore all the donkey work you do, so o work is bad.

If you remember the Pandora's Box. Pandora was given a box by the gods, and they say you tell a woman, here is a nice jewelry box that you keep it and do not open it, Finish. It is sure that she will open. She opened and outcomes evil, sickness, envy, suffering and work also. So work by the ancient Greeks is basically an evil. Plato and Aristotle, big philosophers. So work is bad. Now, some of you must work

in order that the minority, the elite, might engage in pure exercises of the mind-art, philosophy, and politics"

That's why you got to work a lot to support the politicians starting tomorrow.

Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV) The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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."

And here you have a delegation of a partnership where actually God gives work to the man. God can plant a garden, God can create the world, he doesn't need you to bring all, you see, He brought them to the man to ask him how he calls him. Bring all the animals to the man. And the man named them. Do you think, God doesn't know how to name them? God delegates it. It is an issue of having dominion. So, they are partners with God. The words to work and keep it in Hebrew are significant. Abad is to serve just like Israelites serving God. And Samar is a Hebrew word, which is a religious word, it is to protect or exercise care or great care. The same words that we use for the Cherubim and the angels to guard the garden of Eden and also the same word for priests who keep the temple clean and sacred and holy. So basically the Garden of Eden is like a temple where you actually worship, where you actually experience the presence of God.

So actually the Garden of Eden is a place for human flourishing. Everything good happens in the Garden of Eden, and it's the most unique place in the world. You know why? Because it's a place where you play in the garden. It's a home for the couple. It's a workplace for a couple and it is also a temple to worship goes on Sunday. So on Sunday you don't go to church, the church is in your house. There's no dichotomy between all the functions of man and here they are to express the image of God, revealing God through their work. They create their marriage, the order of life, everything is reflective of who God is.

Julia Gillard, prime minister of Australia, in a speech in 2011 says,

"Work is a social good that governments ought to promote and help make available to everyone, if the circumstances allow it."

Which means governments believe that work is good, not just to merely to keep you out of trouble, but it's actually a social good.

Robert Bank writes the various categories of work that we actually have; redemptive, providential, creative, justice, compassion and revelatory. These are all good works that we do to glorify God in our lives. And all these works actually we believe will carry on until eternity. When a new heavens and new earth come here, we will carry on the work. So some of you involve in some line will be called a sunset industry, you must not do that anymore, like my job. When the new heaven and new earth come, there will be nobody who is sick.

Work has lost its meaning. If you look in as a survey done in the United States some time ago and it actually looked at employees and employees said, there work an average employer sees that their work is half as meaningful as it should be. So work is designed for men to give you a sense of accomplishment as part of who you are. And the way we work nowadays is half as meaningful as it could be. 9 out of 10 people are willing to work for less money. But for more meaningful work, they're actually willing to sacrifice 23% of future earnings just take a pay cut just to get a better job in terms of meaning.

Meaningful work means you retain more talent, people have less turnover of staff, employees work more extra hour per week, take less leave and raising one employee's experience from average to highly meaningful, generous, extra \$9,000 in labor output per year. So employers have all the benefits to actually increase meaningful work.

Tim Keller tells us about the current generation.

"[Our generation] insists that work be fulfilling and fruitful, that it fully fit [our] talents and [our] dreams, and that it 'do something amazing for the world,'"

Every young person want to do right, but it is a wrong planet, it doesn't exist. You know why? First of all, work is now a compulsory act of survival.

Genesis 3: 17b cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

So because of sin, work has become an act of survival. It is not to do the most amazing thing in the world. It's been distorted. Work can also be as an identity. If you look at, there are two lines of humanity in Genesis chapter 4 and chapter 5. The first line of humanity is a line of Cain. The second line is a line of Seth. If you look at the line of Seth, all of them are always described as they started calling upon the name of the Lord. Every descendant in chapter 5 talks about calling upon the name of God. Chapter 4 talks about Cain descend, and let's talk about Cane's descendant.

Genesis 4 : 20 Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. 22 Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron

You see the people are now being identified with the things that they have invented, isn't it? They're defined. So you talk about Steve Jobs, Apple, Jeff Bezos; Amazon. Isn't that funny. Now instead of God being your identity, the work that you do becomes your identity. So that's why in Western countries you have Mr. Smith, Mr. Baker, Mr. Butcher, why? Because they described it. Work becomes your identity. And the third issue here is that it's a basis of self-esteem. In Genesis chapter 11,

Genesis 11: 3 And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth

So therefore, their job is the basis of their self-esteem. If you are thriving medical practice or law practice or business, if you are Jeff Bezos, that make \$1 billion every minute. It is not people work, not because of extra dollar, it is because they want to achieve. So this is the evolution of work today and because of that there is a lot of distortion. If work is your identity, you are going to be workaholic. At home you are nobody. Your wife don't look at you, that's the problem. Or work as self-esteem, competition, power pay, retirement, death, a 94 year old don't want to retire. Because to them work is self-esteem.

If work is just earning a living, the best thing you earn enough, no need to work, you retire, you die within five years. Study shows this. Because work is important our human psyche, the human development. So these are all distortions of work that we experience. We Christians are even worse. Christians either have a poverty gospel or the prosperity gospel. They are like opposites. Some of them believe with a poverty gospel that you get possessions, why because possessions are evil. Better not own many things, be happy with the small and old car. Prosperity gospel says, I must own a big car because it is my right. Or the purpose of money for basic needs in poverty gospel, prosperity gospel, I want possession to become rich. Godly people in poverty gospel are poor, godly people in prosperity gospel are rich, ungodly people are rich in poverty gospel, prosperity gospel they are poor. I give because I have to if are poverty gospel. In prosperity gospel, I give to get more. My spending without gratitude in poverty gospel, prosperity gospel is carefree and consumptive.

You see if you look very carefully at these two kinds of approach to our faith, you'll find that they're all focused on what you have, isn't it? They make what we own the most important variable rather than whom we work for and why we work. They don't ask why we work and whom we work for, they only ask about how much I get. You pay me more. I'm off. The Genesis alternative is the stewardship of gospel where possessions are responsibility, purpose is to serve God, Godly people are neither rich are poor, they are faithful. Ungodly people are unfaithful, I give because I love God and my spending is prayerful and responsible. That is a proper place where work glorifies God.

RELATING FOR GLORY

Genesis 2:18-20 (ESV) Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

So here you have a situation where for the first time everything is good in creation, when you come to the creation of man of woman suddenly, I don't know why God doesn't make the two fellows in one shot. God purposely makes one first, make him very lonely, bring all the animals as pairs and this is the way he drags it out, so therefore loneliness. God and Adam were in perfect relationship and yet something is missing, which means this is a design need. God has designed a need that we need to have another person to fellowship with. There's a story of recent Japanese billionaire looking for life partner. He got enough money to fly to the moon. Is the wife the only cure for his loneliness? Yes, it is. Because otherwise he will take a dog.

The way God creates us is that we need compliments not clones. For Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. The words helper doesn't imply that the person is inferior, it is just different provided in different set of skill sets. It means, it correspond to him, matching him, complementary to him. So we need lifelong deep fellowship with people different from us, not the same.

There was a today show, very popular in Australia with Alison Langdon, a pretty young girl and she was reading out this post from facebook. A housewife from Brisbane writes,

"I will always make sure that I don't go to bed until everyone's lunch is packed , their clothes are set out for the next day including my husbands and the house is clean, the dishwasher is on and a load of washing is on. Sometimes it means I go to bed at night and sometimes I go to bed at midnight. I always get up early 4.30 am with my husband to make his breakfast and coffee"

Alison Langdon was laughing at this and saying, she is a stupid woman. They were mocking this woman. But actually this woman lives a life out of a posture of serving other people, seeing them bless is more important. But Alison Langdon cannot see this, which is actually very sad, isn't it? Whenever we have polls that talk about the new government in Malaysia, 14% of the day one Rakyat are women, eight women or six women in the cabinet. We are always talking about that, how many judges, they never talk about how many women are laborers. How many women and men are waiter and waitresses? They only talk about high ranking position. Why? Because we have bought into this idea that money is status, which give you happiness. And that this woman who cooks for her husband and does take care for husband is a poor thing, I mean, and then so we have a generation of women involved in professional life.

If you actually have on Facebook another post.

I make sure before I go to bed up 12, I doing my research for my, for my pitch to my boss. Tomorrow they wake up four 30 to make sure I'm ready to go to work and I'm arrived at before anybody else to make sure the boss see me before he comes in. last year I got promoted to CFO, this year I will be there CEO.

Do you think people will laugh. They will not laugh because the woman is bought into the idea that this will give you happiness and a quality is only defined by such things. And then will find there are thousands of young woman in their 30s and 40s who have followed this lie and actually they are not fulfilled, they are not happy and they are looking is there more to life than this. So we need to be careful.

The other issue is gender fluidity. Here you are talking about a woman who is a complimentary to man. Here you have this lady from the University of Vermont and she describes this phenomenon called gender fluidity.

If you imagine the spectrum and imagine the most feminine expression you have ever seen and most masculine you have ever seen and just sort of imagine where you are on that,"

Which means there is no more male or female. Male here, female here in between a big spectrum and you choose where you are going to be and this is very-very dangerous. Here is one of the ladies and she/he writes,

They might wake up as a man or as a woman, sometimes as both and sometimes as neither. "How I express it is usually how I dress, how I do my hair. But then my mannerisms change. The way I speak might change a little, too,"

It is a bit confusing. This gets worse for the woman. Laurel Hubbard of New Zealand in every weightlifting competition, got gold medal because once she was used to be a man. There is an Australian politician who said, next time Olympics we should have genderless Olympics. No male nor female.

Rose Ward is a very famous LGBTI transgender person in Australia. She started SAFE schools, schools that will teach gender fluidity and transgender issues and she writes,

LGBTI and heteronormativity oppression of it are woven into the fabric of capitalism. Only Marxism and the overthrow of that system provides the theory and the practice genuine human liberation. It offers the hope and the strategy needed to create a world where human sexuality and gender and how we relate to our bodies can blossom in extraordinary new and amazing ways we can only try to imagine today

So she's saying the LBGTQ population are being oppressed, persecuted by heteronormativity, which normal people who believe in binary sex and that is the cause of all the psychological issues and all that and I find it hard to believe because a lot of psychological issues arise from immorality and sin. And people struggle with a basic binary code, which God put into our lives. You see, we are trying to change reality by changing the definitions.

In 1930s you will look at the German dictionary at that time, they will have certain words with square bracket and the square bracket where the words NS (Nazi Socialist Party). That means they will actually change the definitions of things. Very dangerous. In fact, in communist China today, they are now going to issue Bible translated by the communist party, very clever, and you can only read that one. So, if you control the dictionary, the control the narrative and you control life itself.

Post 1917 Russia there are people who are called formal person. These persons were ship you off to Siberia. They will kill you because you're not a person anymore. And so what you do is the day changing the definition of marriage, they are changing the definition of gender. The idea is gender is different from sex. X, Y doesn't necessarily mean male, XX doesn't necessarily female. There's such a thing as gender, which is how you act and what is chromosome, which is actually your biology and many young people are confused. We're looking at about 15,000 young people in United States who have got this condition called gender dysphoria. They don't know what their gender is because they keep getting into the internet and internet telling you, you wake up today you may be female, and tomorrow you be male and those who are upset, disturbed will then go for treatment. And this is some state statistics from Canada. You see the number of children going for hormonal treatment. They give you hormones, the same kind of hormones I give prostate cancer patients to block off all the testosterone, the same kind of treatment they get, or some of them get the two fellows cut off, and the breast cut off to change you to a man or vice versa.

Huge numbers in the last few years. And the data shows that with gender dysphoria, when you come into your 20s, when you thought you are female, everybody reverts back to their chromosomal sex. So if you were born female and you want to be male, by the time you are 20s you actually revert back, but by the time you are 20 years old, they chop off your breasts, took your two testicles away. Then what happened to you?

So we are actually destroying much of ourselves. And we are persecuting people who tell the truth. This is Dr. Alex David McCarran from the UK, and he is A&E doctor for 26 years and he was sacked for refusing to use transgender pronouns.

I believe gender is defined by biology and genetics. And that as a Christian the Bible teaches us that God made humans male or female."

And the judge of the case, because he was sacked, he lost the case. The judge said,

belief in Genesis 1:27, lack of belief in transgenderism and conscientious objection to transgenderism in our judgment are incompatible with human dignity and conflict with the fundamental rights of others, specifically here, transgender individuals" (para 197). Foundation Christian beliefs not "worthy of respect". On a par with neo-Nazi ideologies'

That is what the world is coming to. The Bible makes no distinction. The Bible is very clear.

Genesis 1: 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (in a binary configuration).

Binary configurations are seen in creation as complimentary pairs, heaven and earth, light and darkness, day and night, sun and moon, land and sea, male and female, Christ and the church and in the new heavens and the new earth. So the male and female marriage in a binary configuration is basically a signal about the goodness of creation and God's intention to how the new heavens and new earth are going to be. So you cannot alter that. So now you have the creation of woman.

Genesis 2:21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is 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 his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

And here we have, the woman from Adam, a woman not found a helper fit for him. So therefore we were talking about somebody different, corresponding to him. And then the man said, this the bone of my bones flesh on my myself, which was they are like him? Same equal, not born on his feet. So he could step on her, on his head to be ruling over him. But. Out of him and a side by side. So they're equal. And yet when God takes her out of him he is incomplete, if incomplete until they come back together again, and then they complete and they shall become one flesh and one flesh is then perfect. But look at the last words.

I have **faith** in what I see Now I know I have met an angel in person and she looks perfect I don't deserve this, You look perfect tonight

I mean in our minds, does not everybody bear in our hearts this perfect image of the person we are going to marry one day and we have got this whole set of criteria and then we finally meet that person and what they show it does not apply to them, other people, it is actually a medical condition where dopamine causes excitement and happiness, sweat more, testosterone causes sexual desire, aggression, chase her more. Phenylethylamine causes focus attention, euphoria, giddiness cannot walk straight to count nine, loss of appetite. Noradrenaline causes alertness, notice the smallest details. This disappears after marriage. Don't know where the garbage kid can. And then insomnia cannot sleep for other reasons. Snoring perhaps. Yes, it's true. We actually have this in love kind of euphoria, it is a medical condition as it were, but the work of marriage is not about whether you find and keep your most ideal counterpart. Marriage is about what you do when you discover you can be with the most perfect person for you and still find yourself frustrated, exhausted, dragged down, and at your wits end. It happens in the best of beverages. You come in with this idea of perfection, you're going to crush him with your expectation. He will crush you with his imperfections. The massive meeting of the two perfectionist with expectations. And that's a problem with marriage, isn't it? So, you actually better describe marriage as dying.

Marriage is a kind of death that leads to life—If your focus is yourself and the pursuit of your own happiness, you will be miserable. If you learn to die for your beloved and they learn to die for you, you will be filled with joy.

It sounds very biblical. I remember a wife said, wow my husband treats me like a god. every meal he brings to me is like a burnt offering. Then another couple went out to have dinner, the husband started eating straightaway. The wife said, hey why are not praying and at home you pray before every meal. The husband said, darling the chef here knows how to cook.

Harrison Ford second marriage to Calista Flockhart and had some advice. They asked him recently on CNN, what is the secret to happy marriage. He said, *'Don't talk. Nod your head'*

One thing you forget in this passage is that there is a third person there,

*Genesis 2: 22 And the rib that the **Lord God** had taken from the man he made into a woman and **brought her to the man.** 23 Then the man said, "This at last is **bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh**; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."*

There are three persons here. It is God who brings them together. Marriage only works with three people. It is not a crowd. Because of three people it works.

*24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh.** 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

There is a special union, there is a purpose of marriage. It is procreative. One flesh aspect where they are the only one flesh physically in sexual love. Also, besides physical and psychological it is emotional, but for a particular purpose. The purpose is that

*Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness.27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created **them.***

So therefore man which is man and woman, their purpose of marriage is to reflect God. It is just not to have children, but is to reflect who our creator is that we are actually created. Marriage is actually a mirror.

*Ephesians 5: 31 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”
32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

So therefore there is a special relationship between Christ and the church. A love that is so deep that it can only be comprehended in a very mild way by the depths of marriage. You see, if you look at the trinity, there's a theological term called Perichoresis, and it means that the each member of the Godhead permeates the other, indwells the other, is related to one another, and yet it is distinct. And when you have in marriage you do that, you permeate each other, you influence each other, you are related to each other in such a way that you think alike, you act alike, and yet you're still different. And marriage is supposed to mirror that.

That's a huge, huge, huge burden on us on what to do because marriage is a mirror of what God is. So marriage is a marriage triangle where there's God and there's you and your wife, and the closer you are to God, the closer you are to each other, you can't move close to the other without God, and the further you will move from God, then the further you will move from each other. It's a marriage triangle where God makes it work out, which is why, you don't marry a non-Christian because a non-Christian who have somebody else and the third party, it could be Buddha, Krishna or somebody else's or nobody, how can the marriage work out? The Bible specifically commands against it. It is a sin. It destroys the meaning of what marriage is supposed to be about.

Look at men and woman before and after the fall. Before the fall, a man and after the fall,

Gen 2: 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed

Why? Because they're perfectly in love with God. God gives him all the assurance, all the self-esteem, and all the praise that they need. So they lack nothing. And when they go to each other, they have everything to give because they are rich in God. At the fall in Genesis chapter 3,

Genesis 3:10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

You start hiding yourself because you are inadequate, you are sinful, you have shame and you are hiding, you are spinning, you're doing all sorts of things, and that is what happens. So you can either take God as a coach in your marriage or God as a referee, which is what seems to be happening in a lot of marriages.

Let me end with a challenge to all of us today. God's mission. The theme of our church for this year would be, the gospel for everyone. How does the gospel solve this issue? You see mankind have lost our way. We don't understand our dignity in God. We don't understand our purpose. We certainly have broken relationships, but we believe the gospel is the answer. It is for everyone everywhere. This is a story I told us week of Hayden Bayles. A young Queenslander, nine years old, born as a dwarf, and everybody gave him a hard time in school. He hates to go to school. The mother posted a video of him on the Facebook, he was crying and asking for a knife to kill him.

The video went viral and everybody in the world responded. They raised money for him. When they had a rugby match, the national rugby team brought him out and gave him back his dignity. Huge, tall, giant of men grabbing

the hand of this young person whom everybody rubbished. They restored his dignity. They made him feel like he was worth \$1 million. They made him feel he's one of them, even though he's shorter than them, even though he's not as accomplished as them or as famous of them, or as valuable as them. But he made them feel that way. And you know what happened to Quaden Bayles. They raised 496,000 US dollars. He gave it away every single cent because all he was wanted was his dignity restored to be treated like a proper human being. And then he has the self-esteem to then treat other people as human beings. He said, his mother said as well, this money you can use to help other people who is also as needy as I am.

In the beginning of time, God came down, he got his hands dirty. He took a piece of dirt and he made a man, 2000 years ago, he came to the world, didn't get his hands dirty, he got his hand blooded. They nailed him to the cross to show you an I, our dignity that we are worth it. That whatever color skin you are, wherever house you come from, big, small. How you look ugly or handsome or tall or short or fat, obnoxious, bad breath, horrible feet, it doesn't matter anymore. Why? Because Jesus loves me and died for me, and that is the most liberating thing that we can keep on to. When someone does that to you, you begin to open your eyes and see other people as your savior would see them. And you're not going to look at another person and look down at them. You know why? Because Jesus looked at you and looked up at you and died for you, gave his life for you.

And that is what the gospel is about. The gospel is about Jesus coming and seeing that we were worth the trouble. We were worth the time. We were worth the pain and that transforms us. It redeems our dignity. We look at people in a different way. We look at the unborn child, we look at a sick person. We look at a disabled in a different way and God redeems our dignity, you know, why, at the end of time God will resurrect us. This is our 10th anniversary and there are some of us who are with Jesus right now. We remember that because they're not dead. They will join us and we will have new bodies, which are totally incorruptible at all. The gospel also redeems our purpose, our circumstances, and our results. The Bible says that from now onwards we work, we are not pleasing men anymore. We render service as a goodwill to God, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive back from God.

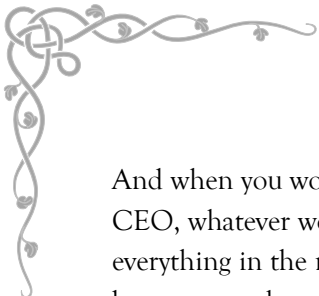
So when we are working, even though our bosses are bad, it redeems our purpose. We work for God, and if our bosses are bad, look here,

*1 Peter 2: 18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but **also to the unjust.***

The gospel doesn't change the condition of your work, it changes the condition of your heart. So not matter what work that you do, it changes that.

Every single thing that you do in whatever job that you have will count for all of eternity and you stand one day before our Lord is going to look at you and say well done, good and faithful servant.

Years ago there was a big church building in Barcelona. They started building, people were carving things in the marble, doing all sorts of fixtures. You know, this building took 150 years. Even today it is not finished yet. You think the guy who started carving the marble statue then can imagine what it looks like today. Today is not even finished. It also looks at that, but you look inside how beautiful it is, how wonderful it is. This is La Sagrada Familia. If a chance to go to Barcelona, you need to even see it. But you never know how beautiful it was 150 years ago. Right? And that's the same with us. Every single one of us, God has redeemed our purpose.



And when you work, whether you sell ice at the side of road, whether you're a lawyer, whether you're a corporate CEO, whatever work that you do, it is not in vain, it counts towards the final product of the beauty that surpasses everything in the new heavens and new earth. That's why we work. That's why all work matters. You know, why because people matter. Every single person matters. And the work that we do for them matters.

And finally the gospel not only gives us back our dignity, it redeems our work, it also redeems our marriages. A husband and wife are not going to be perfect, but when they come together the wife submits to the husband. Submission is called voluntarily yielding in love, but when she submits to her husband, she submits to husband as to the Lord and for husband. If you look here,

Ephesians 5: 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Which means the way the wife submits in love, the way the husband sacrifices his love for one particular purpose, to mirror the love of Christ. That's what it's supposed to be. When your wife dies, when your husband dies, the question asked is why in heaven, got no husband and wife. Why no marriage, why God so unfair? I've been a woman for the last eighty years, that means I cannot be with her for the next 2000 years. Maybe some of you want some of you don't want. There might be complications if you have married three wives.

You understand the marriage is a pointer. Marriage has a purpose. Marriage fulfills in our sanctification. It makes us like God, like Jesus. It makes us godly. The way we forgive, the way we love, the way we sacrifice. That is in marriage, however imperfect it is. You've got a lousy marriage. You got difficult marriage. It will teach you to be loving. It will teach you to endure. It will teach your patience. Every marriage with his complexities is given to you by God, not by mistake, so that its purpose will be fulfilled. The purpose is that you will stand one day before God and he will receive you and say, well done, good and faithful servant. Marriage has a purpose to bring you in Christ, to grow in godliness.

So, the gospel is for everyone, everywhere. The gospel is reflecting the goodness of God, we are designed for glory, purposed for glory, and we are relating for glory.

