

Ask the Lord to help you to believe. The Lord doesn't need a whole lot of people. He just needs some who believe. Well, perhaps for the recording, I'd better read some Scripture references. You may want to mark them down; I'm not going to read them. I am not clear if I will even get to this subject. They are Hebrews 2:12 and John 12:31, Colossians 2:15, Galatians 6:14, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 8:3, 1 Peter 2:4, Isaiah 53:6. The next are Galatians 5:24, Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:6, and Colossians 1:20.

I only have two verses that I'd like to read. Hebrews 4:15: *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have a high priest who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

I'm going to read this. I know you can quote it, but I'm going to turn to it and read it. In John 1:28, *these things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day...* that was the day John said he was not the Son of God and pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God. I believe that happened that day.

Okay. Verse 28. *The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus, verse 29, coming to him and said, Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is He on behalf of whom I said, after me comes a man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me. I did not recognize Him, but in order that He might be manifested in Israel, I came baptizing in water. And John bore witness, saying, I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven and remaining upon Him. And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said, He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. I have seen, and I have borne witness that this is the Son of God.*

Now verse 35 is the next day, which is the third day. *Again, the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked upon Jesus as He walked and said, Behold the Lamb of God. And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and they said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day; it was about the tenth hour. They spent the rest of the afternoon and the evening with Him.*

Here's the verse I was going to read a moment ago. John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

There was God. There were angels. Later there was man. God couldn't reproduce and didn't have a counterpart. Angels had no gender and had no problem. Man could not reproduce and had no counterpart because he was made in the image of God, but they were both a "he."

When God created the universe, and He began creating living things, everything that was alive...I have said in the past that it reflected God, showed something of God, told us something about God, and pictured some aspect of God. Everything in creation, everything, especially that which lived in creation. I'm going to revise that, and I'm going to say that everything in creation not only showed some aspect of God but also showed some aspect of His longing for what He wanted but did not have.

Now, when God made man in His own image, it was like God took a mirror, looked at Himself, and began creating man. I tell you, God has emotion. Do you know that? God has will. God has mind. God

has feeling. God made this man in His image, and He raised him from the dirt. One of the things that that creature had that no other creature had was the capacity to love another, or, say, the capacity to love. Those are the only two creatures in the universe who could love.

Then God made this man live. God was spirit; man was soul, but that soul was a reflection of God's spirit. Deep within God's being were life, light, and reality. What else was there? God was young. What else did we leave out? God was alone. God was love, but He was also singular. I said that He was power, and behind that love was all His power. What a frustration to be so totally God, so totally powerful, and no place for love to go.

God made man, and God put every feeling and sense that God had into man. He woke man up, and man stood a living soul. And brothers and sisters, man had the same frustration God had. Man had the capacity to love on the level of the soul, and there was no one to love.

God left Adam that way for a while, and I tell you, I'm glad He did. Really glad He did. Adam walked around on this planet for a good long time with this *aloneness*. I tried to describe to you the other night how alone he was by talking about that man who went around the other side of the moon alone in that capsule. He was six thousand miles, through the center of the moon, six thousand miles away from the next living human being. Adam wasn't that close to a living human being anywhere. He was so utterly alone. A whole planet was his, and he had no one to share it with. He had no one to speak to. He had no one to utter his thoughts to. But most of all, the driving capacity to love within him had no place to go.

Then God did what to Adam must have been a cruel thing. He asked him to bring all the animals past and name them. Adam looked at the living creatures - all the living creatures in the universe are on the earth, other than those that are in the heavens, and they're only the angels and God, so they were all there. Adam must have been frustrated watching them come by.

There was a lion. And beside him... was there a lion? No. But there was something like a lion, and Adam probably looked at it as it walked by and tried to figure out, "What is that? It's not a lion. That lion is like me, but what's that beside it?" Here came a deer. There was the stag, and there was the doe. Here came the sheep, the ram and the ewe. Each one came by. There were always two, and he kept looking. They kept coming by, and the animals got progressively higher and higher, and I'm sure he just kept looking, hoping maybe something like him, but not quite him, would come by. Then they were all gone, and it was a sad hour. It was sad for man because he was alone, and he understood he had some sense of God's aloneness.

Well, God foresaw something in what He did with Adam. He put him to sleep. He brought out of Adam part of Adam, and out of Adam He made "Adami." Not another Adam. Praise the Lord, not another Adam. If God had presented to Adam another man, Adam would have gone into a rage and said, "Take him back where you got him and give me back my rib." God wasn't interested in another man. It was something slightly different, but the same. God had to put this man to sleep, draw out a rib from him, and make a counterpart to Adam.

I made a mistake the other night. I have to apologize. I was wrong. God took that rib out of Adam, brought it over here, and began fashioning that rib. You know what He did with it? He made it out of Adam, not out of the earth; He brought it up, and stood it there. And brothers and sisters, I'm guessing - this is not in the Bible - but I'm guessing that He let her stand there alone for a moment, and let Eve look

around...for her counterpart. I suspect that God let her feel that same aloneness, and I suspect He let her feel that sense of love within her deepest being, and no place to go.

I believe that when God woke Adam up, and the two saw one another, it was the woman who broke out running first. You know why? Because, in having taken her out of Adam, out of Adam came a soul, a body, a spirit, and that longing, yearning to be loved...and to love, and it beat within Eve as strongly as it beat within Adam.

When she saw Adam, remember, they were in the purest state; when she saw Adam, she loved him as much as he loved her, for she had his life within her as intensely as the love in him. You understand. Later I'm going to prove that Eve embraced Adam, and I'm going to prove it. I'll prove it from the Bible. I don't know when I'll get to it, but I will.

God begins a type. God had a plan for this race. God was going to satisfy His own need through this creature He had made called man. I've said to you many times, God never intended for there to be a creature called man as we know him today. I think you all understand that, don't you? Everybody who does not understand that, raise your hand.

God made man with one part left out, and He intended to insert that part before the fall. There would be no fall if that part had been inserted; instead, man fell with a part left out, and a creature came upon this earth whom God had never planned - fallen man without God's Spirit. Now then, even though we are redeemed today, we are still not quite what God originally planned because of fallenness. This thing right here is corrupted. So man fell. This didn't disturb the Lord too much. The Lord knew He would have a counterpart someday. Do you think God can be stopped from having a counterpart? Do you? He can't be stopped. No way.

Brothers and sisters, here are things I would say about the type. God took a corporate people and said to them, "Here will be a picture of My bride." It's amazing that from Genesis 2 you have to go all the way to Deuteronomy to find God's heart. You find it in Deuteronomy 6, and what does it say? Tell me.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.*

"Love the Lord with all your being." You know you didn't know what that meant two months ago. Just some feeling of 'Love the Lord.' No, that's not what it says, brothers. When you get the passion of it, to love Him with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, love Him that much. Tell me, have you ever actively loved the Lord that intensely?

He wants to have a people who obey the first commandment. Now the Lord is saying that if you do this, all the rest are insignificant. On this one hangs all the law and all the prophets. That's incredible. The Lord would have a bride for Himself.

Did you ever read Ezekiel 16, all of it? How many of you read all of Ezekiel 16? You have some impression of what God had. I talked to you about the problem He had. I talked to you the other night and said, "If there's a really good man and a handsome man, does he deserve a beautiful wife? And a pure wife? Did Adam deserve Eve? Did Abraham deserve Sarah? Did Isaac deserve Rebekah?

Does God deserve a beautiful counterpart? Does He deserve a pure woman? Did He select her? Did He fall in love with her? Why did He fall in love with her? *Because He loved her.* Now, is that true? Are we

on scriptural grounds there? We read it in the Bible. He fell in love with her because He loved her. Why does a man love a woman? Because he fell in love with her. Did he intend to? No. Did he plan to? No. He just fell in love with her.

And what did Israel do? What did this beautiful girl, this lovely girl do? She turned to other lovers. She even took the gold and the silver that enhanced her beauty, and what did she do with it? She made idols and gave them to others that she loved. God beheld it with His own eyes. He watched the drama unfold. He watched her turn away from Him, did He not? He saw it. He felt it. His heart broke over it. He watched Israel, which was a picture for us, a type for us, going into unmentionable things. Physical, yes, but brothers, the first night, will everybody please remember that no one will understand what I am saying. I won't understand what I am saying because I have to employ human words to express a divine thing.

Nonetheless, what was happening between God and Israel was primarily spiritual. Even though it was physical, it was primarily spiritual. I've been tempted to take two or three ugly nights and talk about what Israel did and go through all the verses. She went back and had commerce with Egypt. She went back and had relationships with Babylon, out of whom she came. She picked up the ways of those whom God saved her from. I had thought about mentioning things like that in relation to the 20th and 21st centuries, and then I said to myself, no, Gene Edwards, you are going to stick with the truth and not with a lie.

I give you the truth. God watched that thing. He watched it happen. He watched the immorality. He watched the turning away from Him. Who did Israel turn away from? She turned away from the most beautiful, capable, attractive lover of all time. Israel, rather than marrying God...and that's what God said, that I would make you My bride. She actually chose between fallen man and God...and chose fallen man.

Now I come to a point of feeling helpless, because I have to move from pictures to reality. How can I do it? First, I want you to know that God is still here. Man is no longer what he was, but he has fallen. This thing right here has been greatly damaged. The flesh...the body God gave Adam is no longer the body; it is the flesh. This creature, whom He once would have had as His counterpart, has fallen so low. A gloom covers the entire planet.

Brothers and sisters, has God ceased loving? Did God cease loving Israel when she fell into sin? God did something opposite of what a man would do. What would a man do who had done all that God had done for Israel if he had seen her turn away? He would have rejected her. God chastised her, but then, having chastised her, He said, I can't do this anymore. You will yet be Mine. *God's passion kept on driving Him. He still loved.*

Now we come to reality. I want to ask you a question. The last thing we see in the Old Testament is Israel, a fallen woman whom God says He will still love and make His own. I ask again, does He deserve a pure woman, a beautiful woman? He surely does. But Israel, our last glimpse of her, is not too good.

Where will God get His real bride? Out of Himself, yes, but not totally, because He is Spirit. Sister, remember the first night we said something about God being limited in that sense. He could not have a counterpart being spirit. He wasn't divisible as spirit. Where would God get His bride?

One day His eyes fell on something, and His eyes took it all in. He could see it—fallen, sinful...but the passion was there. He would go to no end, to no limitation, to have His bride. He looked at something and beheld it, and a passion burned in Him. A love burned in Him. What was it? For God so loved the world. For God so loved me.

Where could He get a bride except out of fallen man? He would get her from where there was not one creature who had survived the fall. It was from the world that He would get her. He would go into the streets of sin...the world. Do you know what this means? The world. What is the world? It is an illegal marriage, an improper marriage. The righteous, holy, pure God had but one place to go and get a bride. Where is it? The world.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.* Well, brothers and sisters, I am now really...I hope you can say that. God comes to get His bride.

Here is God, and He has finally said, “*The hour has arrived.*” The real, true hour has come after all eternity and thousands of years. I’ve come to get My bride. You never heard a love story like this. He was still spirit, invisible, unseen, unknown. If you gave me one solid year and met here every night, I could not describe to you the end of what it means to be incarnate. One of the most powerful things I ever heard in all my life was a sister in Tyler, Texas, talking about the incarnation, and she said that would be like a man becoming a roach.

There was desperation in God. This was not the one He had planned, was it? Is this where He had planned to get His bride from, this fallen race that had done this terrible, illegal thing? No, but the love and the desire to express that love, to have one whom He could love, drove Him. I want you to know something else: when He got here, He was still determined that what He wanted would be beautiful and be an equal counterpart.

Look at God. God is spirit. He didn’t surrender the fact He was God one bit when He became man. All that God was—all the emotion, all the feeling, all the purity, all the eternal wisdom, all the infinite experience, all the life, all the light—it was all still there with the love. And now it is inside the form of a human.

The Lord Jesus Christ stepped out of the banks of the Jordan River, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, and the Godhead rested totally in Him. I want you to know that as He walked up out of those banks, He walked in power. He had all that God had of love in Him, plus all that man had in him.

Can you feel that? Can you feel it? He was alone again. Do you understand? Was He God? Was He man? Had God been alone? All alone?

(Continued in Part 5)