

May 22, 2020

CREATION'S HICCUP: PUSHING THROUGH LONELINESS

GENESIS 2:18, 23 ^(NIV)

¹⁸ The Lord God said,
“It is not good for the man to be alone.

²³ The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THIS STORY – it's amongst the most popular stories in all of Christianity. It's so familiar, you can probably finish the illustrious opening line. Say it with me: *In the beginning, God created the...*

Anything that is something got its launch when *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*¹ Creation is where we go in order to find out where we're going!

At the very beginning God is creating and naming, cultivating and taming:

- *God created the heavens and the earth.*
- *“Let there be light,” and there was light.*²
- *Let the land produce vegetation.*³
- *When I fixed limits for [the ocean] and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther’...⁴*

The Beginning was the busiest moment ever. Yet to all of these things *God saw and said, IT IS GOOD.* If creation were a track on your favorite new music album, this phrase would be the rhythm section holding everything together in sync.

—**It is good.**

Goodness lines the pages of creation. It highlights the downbeat of each closing measure. Whether you look up at the newborn sunrise or out at the endless earth, there is goodness.

¹ Genesis 1:1

² Genesis 1:3

³ Genesis 1:11

⁴ Job 38:10-12

Whether you listen in on the song birds or the animals of the sea, there's goodness. Goodness is everywhere. Then at the height of creation, the first human is created. Adam is different from everything else. Because into this scoop of mud God breathes into Adam—life. Then a hiccup arises in creation's melody. God looks upon Adam and, for the very first time, strikingly says, ***It is NOT GOOD.*** What is it that is not good? ...***for Adam to be alone.***

Lately it has been the norm—and perhaps even the requirement—for us to be alone. The novel coronavirus has pushed us back into The Beginning. We are once again pressed into isolation merely due to creation's circumstances. At the same time, and even paradoxically, it is our degree of isolation that saves us in the present hour. Yet what we must keep before us during this season is this hiccup in creation. Equally true to the scientific guidance that keeps us socially distanced from one another, sits the human reality that we were not created to be alone. And when we are alone for too long, it is not good. ...Not good at all. ...¡No Bueno!

In what ways do you need Jesus to help you push against loneliness?

You know the next part of the story, God creates Eve from Adam's rib. Listen in to Adam's words as he meets Eve: *This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' FOR SHE WAS TAKEN OUT OF MAN.*⁵ For the first time, Adam calls himself *man*. Adam is only able to fully distinguish who he is when brought into community with Eve. What does this teach us?

Community, sourced in God's creative power, enables us to become fully aware of who we are.

The intention of God is to create a community of people—a people who look like the God we have come to know in Jesus. Our hope depends only on the God who has given the Easter verdict and is creating a new world and calling it *very good*.

Without Ceasing,

Pastor Brandon

⁵ Genesis 2:23