

Today's Message: "Fear of Loneliness"

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24)

What does God say about Loneliness:

1. "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" - Genesis 2:18
2. "Do not fear, for I am with you." - Isaiah 41:10 [see also Deut. 31:6; Psalm 23:4; 27:10; 68:5-6; 73:23-24; 145:18; John 14:16-18; Isaiah 49:15-16]
3. "To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single" (1 Corinthians 7:8)
 - The family of God does not grow through procreation but through regeneration. (Genesis 1:28, 15:5, 26:3, Isaiah 53:5, 10; John 3:3, Galatians 3:7, 26, 1 Peter 1:3-4)
 - Marriage points to the relationships of Jesus Christ and the church and in some ways is just a shadow of that relationship.
 - Spiritual friendships in Christ are more permanent and more precious than any other relationships.

"You Make Me Brave"

Pastor Doug Melder

April 11 & 12, 2015

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¹ Thus says the LORD: "... soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed..." ³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." ⁴ For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name **better than sons and daughters**; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. ⁶ "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant-- ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer **for all peoples.**" (Isaiah 56:1-7)

"There are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it." (Matthew 19:12)

4. "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel," Jesus said, "who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29-30).

And when his own mother and brothers asked to see him, Jesus said, "'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers!'" (Matthew 12:48-49)

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:8)

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