

WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, June 15, 2021
Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN

“Bone of my Bones”

READING: Genesis 2:18, 20b-24 – The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him...for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 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.” For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

On a Saturday 48 years ago tomorrow Rebecca Ann Weston became Rebecca Ann Kischnick. Rev. Victor Spiekerman performed the wedding and God made the marriage. We’ve been stuck with each other ever since! Becky, of course, robbed the cradle. I was just a child of 19. And...it worked the other way, too, because Becky was just 17 on that muggy day in June 1973.

In our text God declares that it is not good for the man to be alone. He sure had that right. Adam was also on to something when he said that his helpmate would be called “woman”, but I think we’ve been pronouncing it wrong. I really think Adam said, “She shall be called ‘WHOA-man’. See, without Eve Adam would certainly have drank too much beer, eaten too much bologna, and probably wouldn’t have changed his bed linens for months on end! It was Eve who reigned him in and made a family man out of him. Becky’s surely been my “WHOA-man” on a number of occasions.

When Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh,” he was definitely remarking upon Eve’s origins. However, there was even greater wisdom in that statement than he knew. Becky and I have pretty much eaten the same food, drunk the same water, and often shared the same illnesses over these 48 years. (It’s true she likes bananas on all of her ice cream, and for some reason that mystifies me, she loves the “Pink Drink” at Starbuck’s. I’ve tasted it and definitely can’t see the attraction.) In some very tangible ways we are bone of bone and flesh of flesh.

When Becky’s dad brought her down the aisle and gave her away, he was happy to do so. We always had a very good relationship, and I am sure he trusted that I would do my utmost to take care of her, love, honor, and cherish her. It also helped that he had five more daughters in the house, so giving away the eldest one allowed the younger ones to get more sunlight and grow into the beautiful flowers they became! Do you realize that when he “gave her away” he was simply re-enacting the scene of the first wedding when the Lord God brought the woman “to the man”? Every bride ever escorted down the aisle and given away is an image of the first wedding when the Heavenly Father gave Eve to Adam as his wife.

On that day 48 years ago, Becky and I responded to Pastor Spiekerman’s inquiries with the words, “I will.” Not, “I do” as is so often spoken in the movies and on TV. “I do” is used in some circles, but it’s inadequate. It’s obvious to all what the two are “doing.” But, in our Lutheran usage we use the vow of “I will” because getting married, making promises, and then keeping them is about a whole lot more than “doing” the things expected. It is often a matter of the “will”. Marriage is work at times. There are shallow spots on the cruise where one or both have to drag their canoe over the rocks to deeper pools. There are times we put up with one another and do so only by our “will”. The abiding love that a marriage requires is the very same love God has expressed for us: “agape”. Agape love is a love that comes as much from the mind (or will) as it does from the heart. So God has loved us. So husbands and wives must love each other.

God has blessed me with many great gifts from my childhood to this moment. But aside from my salvation in Christ Jesus, the greatest gift has been the gift of Rebecca Ann nee Weston Kischnick. I thank the Lord for her and want to say today in a very public way, "I love Becky!" May God bless and keep all of you in his hand. We'll talk again next week.

PRAYER:

ANNOUNCEMENT(S):

1) VBS REGISTRATIONS: Don't forget to tell your friends and relatives who have youngsters in their homes the our VBS is set for June 27-30 and that ALL registrations must be done online, in advance, and before June 20. They can do this by going to glcna.org. Helpers are also needed and can register at the same website.