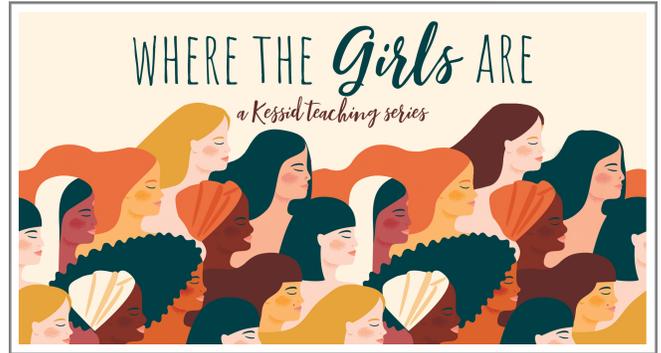


“THE VEIL”

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Speaker: Danny Clinton



Today’s talk is going to lean in the opposite direction from last week – Today I’m going to spend most of my time talking to women.

(Vs) Genesis 1:26-28 – ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

The word “man” is used in a universal sense.

- It is generic, including of both men and women.
- They are given the shared responsibility, a mission and commission, of joint dominion over the earth.
- They are called to fill the earth, subdue the earth, and rule it together.

Then in Genesis 2, we receive a play-by-play detailed account of what God did in Genesis 1...

- God made man first.
- God put the man in a beautiful place and instructed him to “work it and take care of it.”
- God gave man instructions on life in the garden, which he later passed on to woman, who was not present when the instructions were given.
- God warned the man concerning the Forbidden Tree, and God directed man to name the animals. Each of these animals had a counterpart, but there was no counterpart for man.

In this exercise, God showed man his desire and need for a companion.

- God gives us His motivation for creating woman in Gen. 2:18.

(Vs) Gen. 2:18 – Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

This word Helper is... "Ezer" – and is used 21 times on the Old Testament.

- In two cases, it refers to the first woman (Eve).
- Three times, it refers to powerful nations that Israel called for help when besieged.
- In the sixteen remaining cases, the word refers to "God as our help."

"Because God is not subordinate to His creation, any idea that an 'ezer' -helper is inferior or incapable is unfounded."

Genesis 3 then turns a corner and shows us how sin entered the world.

- Both the man and woman sinned and so both are equally fallen.
- But, there was a difference in the way they sinned. When God confronted the man, the man shirked responsibility and blamed the woman.

(Vs) Gen. 3:12 – The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

- When God confronted the woman, she realized she had been deceived and admitted it.

(Vs) Gen. 3:13 – "...The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

This results in struggle and suffering infiltrating every aspect of life.

- God had commissioned them to "be fruitful and multiply," but now woman's childbearing would be accompanied with great pain.
- God had commanded them to "subdue the earth," but now man's work would be accompanied by painful toil, thorns, and thistles.

It's as if there was this painfully restrictive veil placed between what God intended and the created beings He loved so much!

- Now, everyday survival would require sweat, struggle, and suffering for both! And, the worst part of that struggle would involve alienation between men and women.

(Vs) Gen. 3:16 – "...Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

Note: This "ruling" of men over women in Genesis 3:16 is not part of God's original plan.

- Rather it is part of the curse and therefore not prescriptive of ideal male-female relationships – just descriptive of the mess that sin's entrance occasioned.

Women in the room...

- Biblical 'Prescriptive' and 'Descriptive' lenses and language...
- This passage is clearly Descriptive of what happened, but has been used as a Prescription for how things are meant to be.

"It's in inauthentic voice that tries to lead you back to the cursed lifestyle and its consequences."

Now I want to look at a Prescriptive passage.

- Let's fast forward to the time of Jesus...
- Mary and Martha

(Vs) Luke 10:38-39 – Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching.

- The original audience would have quickly noticed this radical act on the part of Mary. – Why?
- Mary took the position of a disciple by sitting at the Lord's feet and listening to His teaching – A role fiercely reserved only for men!

(Vs) Luke 10:40 – But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."

Her sister noticed this and implored Jesus to send Mary back to the place that "she was supposed to be."

- Note: It's not only men that need to be awakened to how the Lord is moving.

(Vs) Luke 10:41 – But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Jesus' response is equally radical...

- He describes Mary's posture, the place that she is, as good!
- This word "good" that Jesus uses is *agathós*. **Def:** *agathós* - inherently (intrinsically) good; describes what originates from God and is empowered by Him in their life, through faith.
- This language points back to the design of creation... "The Beginning"
- In Genesis 1, at the close of each day of creation...

(Vs) Genesis 1:31 – "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good."

In the same way that God looked over His creation and said, "It was very good," Jesus looked over Mary and said the same.

- He publicly recognizes where you are is "Good!"
- Jesus Prescribes to her "Goodness."

I want to point out the feelings in this room right now...First for Martha...

- To suddenly realize you've been trying to mold your whole life to how culture sees you... Embarrassment, Anger, Sadness...

Then, for the Men in the room...

- To consider you might not be the answer you thought you were... Insecurity, Uncertainty, Jealousy...

What about Mary?

- I'm guessing she felt more than just comfortable in this new space... Perhaps for the first time in her whole life, she felt comfortable in her own skin.

Lastly, Jesus...

- Who came to accomplish and bring "This New Way..." – I want to imagine Jesus felt a rush of purpose as He thought about all those other women living under a "Description" of how they were to live and exist, instead of inside their good and pure "Prescriptive" access to The Lord.

The Church can be particularly harsh to those who want to question the old way of being...

- In a much, much more powerful example, it would be the Church that eventually Crucified Christ, this bringer of a New Way.
- This prescriber of Good! And yet when He finally breathes His last... something incredible would happen in our world, for our World... Something deeply symbolic!

(Vs) Matt. 27:50,51 – And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split."

The Veil between us and God had been removed.

- The Path has been cleared toward equality and love... For Us ALL!

There so much New Life on the other side of that Veil...