

## Sermon 6-29-2025, Friends Day

Genesis 2:15–18 (KJV 1900)

<sup>15</sup>And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

<sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

<sup>17</sup>But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

<sup>18</sup>And the Lord God said, **It is not good that the man should be alone**; (have everyone repeat that line with me...it is not good that man should be alone) I will make him a help meet for him.


### The Power of a Plus-one

As the father of four daughters—with one wedding already in the books, a second on the calendar, and a third looking like it's not too far off—I've become far more knowledgeable about the world of wedding planning than I ever dreamed... or frankly, ever wanted to be.

One topic that seems to come up almost immediately after the engagement is official and the date is set is this: *Should single guests be allowed to bring a plus-one?*

This question sparks so much debate that nearly every wedding blog and magazine has something to say about it. Even *Time Magazine* ran an article on the topic in December of 2023, starting with this line: **“There are three words every person planning a wedding dreads more than most others: ‘Can I bring...?’”**

That’s the heart of the plus-one debate.

 The Cambridge Dictionary defines a plus-one as “a *person that you take to a party or other event.*”

But a plus-one is about so much more than an extra chair or a meal count. It’s about companionship, comfort, and community.

Because attending a wedding alone—when everyone else has someone to sit with, laugh with, dance with—can feel isolating. But a plus-one changes that.

A plus-one is an invitation to experience joy together. It’s a reminder that life is better—and celebrations are richer—when they’re shared.

It may seem like a small gesture, but it makes a big impact: it turns isolation into connection, discomfort into belonging, and silence into shared laughter.

“And while the question of a plus-one is a hotly debated topic within matrimonial ethics, the idea of a plus-one is a prerequisite in the Kingdom of God.

All the way back in Genesis, when God had formed man from the dust of the ground, God looked at Adam and said “it is not good for man to be alone”.

This was more than a Genesis gesture...More than an Eden expression...much more than a man needing a woman...this is a principle of the Kingdom of God... There is Power in a plus-one!

① **Scripture:** 1 Samuel 14:6–7

<sup>6</sup>And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: **it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.**

<sup>7</sup>And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.

 **The fact is that life is filled with battles.** At time it feels that life is just one big battle.

- just doing the right thing in a world celebrating the wrong things...is a battle.
- Fighting for your marriage...its a battle
- Fighting for your family...its a battle
- Fighting for your faith
- Fighting to keep your job
- Fighting to keep up with the cost of living and soaring inflation...
- It's all a battle.
- **I think sometimes if we aren't careful, we can project an inaccurate image of what serving the Lord looks like.**
- Your neighbors see you get in the car on Sunday and head to church, everyone is dressed so nice, and smiling at one another...we are all carrying our bible's.
- It looks like walking with Jesus is just a stroll the park.
- What they didn't know is that 20 second walk to the car was just a pause in the pandemonium and chaos.

- And absolutely serving the Lord is great! And we should serve the Lord with gladness...but
- Serving the Lord is not the absence of opposition...it is not the absence of the battle.
- In fact it was Paul, who at the end of his ministry and his mission...he didn't say, I have lived a good life, or I have walked a good walk...He said I have fought a good fight!
- Whether you are in the world or in the church, the battle is a reality.
- **The difference is that in the Kingdom of God you don't have to fight alone!**

In this passage, Jonathan is in a moment of holy unrest. The Philistines are oppressing Israel, while Jonathan's father, King Saul, is sitting under a pomegranate tree doing nothing.

Jonathan senses that something *must* be done. But instead of waiting for a large army or a sign from heaven, he takes action — and invites his **armor-bearer** to go with him.

**Jonathan has faith, but he isn't delusional.**

- Delusional faith is believing you can win the battle on your own.
- That you don't need any help.
- That you don't need anyone fighting alongside of you.

**Even Jesus, in the most intense spiritual battle of his earthly ministry, took Peter, James, and John with him to pray in Gethsemane.**

- Faith is believing I can be victorious
- Delusion is believing I can be victorious on my own.
- Jonathan said to his armor-bearer “**LET US go up**”
- **If WE go up together**, it may be that the Lord will work for US!

**The Only person that I can think of in the scripture who tried to accomplish his entire ministry all on his own was Samson...and we know how that ended...**

**Because you weren't designed to war alone!**

You are here today and you wonder why you can't get victory...why you can't win that battle... it's because you weren't designed to fight alone.

Ephesians 6 describes the whole armor of God and the only part of the body that no armor was provided for was the back...the breastplate, the shield, the helmet...but nothing for the back.

Why... that's what your brother is for... that's what your sister is for! You weren't designed to war alone.

“Jonathan had the *faith*, but he needed a *friend*.  
He had the *courage*, but he also needed *companionship*.  
Even spiritual warriors aren't meant to war alone.”

**You weren't designed to war alone!!**

**Tell your neighbor... “you weren't designed to war alone!”**

**Look back at them and tell them... “I need you” ...I need a plus-one!**

② And the writer of Ecclesiastes, the man who has been called the most wise man to have ever lived... King Solomon, brings another dimension to the Power of the Plus-One.

Ecclesiastes 4:7–10 (NLT 1900)

<sup>7</sup>I observed yet another example of something meaningless under the sun.



<sup>8</sup>This is the case of a man who is all alone, without a child or a brother, yet who works hard to gain as much wealth as he can. But then he asks himself, “Who am I working for? Why am I giving up so much pleasure now?” It is all so meaningless and depressing.

<sup>9</sup>Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.

<sup>10</sup>If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

**The writer of Ecclesiastes is observing the loneliness and futility of life lived in isolation...He calls it vanity...meaningless...**

- I have lived long enough to know that you can be surrounded by others, but still be isolated.

 **Companionship is not having people in your proximity... it's allowing them into your pain...into your purpose!** 



In verse 8, he describes a man who toils endlessly but has no companion — no one to share in the reward or the journey. And in the following verses he unpacks the Power of a +1.



### **Sermon Insight:**

**“God designed many of the most powerful moments in ministry to be impossible in isolation — He hardwired us for connection.**

- The beauty of baptism...where our sins are washed away and we are buried with Christ...cannot be accomplished without someone.
- The miracle of healing. “You shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.”
- The sacrament of communion...The very word communion shares the root of community. Communion was to be taken in the fellowship of like, precious faith
- Spiritual Growth: Hebrews 10:24-25
- <sup>24</sup>And **let us consider one another** to provoke unto love and to good works: <sup>25</sup>Not forsaking the assembling of **ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting one another**:

Look at what the text shows happens when you have a plus-one:

**1. Support when you stumble – “If either of them falls...”**

→ Life *will* trip you up.

I know Solomon said here “IF either of them falls... I don’t believe he was questioning the possibility of them falling, rather WHICH ONE FELL DOWN THIS TIME.

- The prophet Micah observes the same propensity when he says...When I fall, I shall arise.
- The question isn’t **if** you’ll fall — it’s whether someone will be there to help you back up.

God never planned for you to walk alone. It was never part of his design!

**You weren’t designed to war alone...and, You weren’t destined to walk alone**

③ And it is in the 34th Psalm that we find the plus-one principle invoked by the Psalmist when he writes with an enthusiastic tone: **Come magnify the Lord with me, Let us Exalt His name together.**

To fully appreciate the Psalmists Plus-one petition, we should understand the 34th Psalm is a testimony of

David. A song written AFTER he is delivered from an impossible situation.

The Bible tells us that this plus-one Psalm of David is a connected to the account described in 1 Samuel chapter 21.

In the record of 1 Samuel chapter 21, David finds himself in an impossible situation. He is fleeing from Saul and he comes to seek shelter from king A-quiche of Gath.

One of King A-Quiche servants begin to speak counsel to the king...

“this is the same David who had struck down Gath’s great champion Goliath.

This David is no helpless vagabond...Songs had been sung of how David had slain 10’s of thousands.

The inference of the servant is that David is someone who:

- Should be feared, not befriended.
- struck down, not sheltered
- Kill him while you can

As the servant is speaking, David realizes his death is imminent. He’s got no way out.

And in the moment...caught between a rock and hard place...literally facing a death sentence with no way out, God shows up.

And he plants a God idea in the mind of David.

- David changed his behavior.
- He pretended to be insane
- One translation says that he disguised his sanity and acted insane
- He began to scratch on the gates of the city.
- He allowed spittle to run down and gather in his beard.

And King Achish drove him away.

Get this mad man out of my presence.

And now on the other side of destruction. On the deliverance side of certain destruction, David considers how that God delivered him.

David begins to contemplate that his demise was eminent that God delivered him.

AFTER deliverance...David sits down and begins to think Just how close he had been death.

How near he had been to destruction.

When I look back over my life, and I think things over...

When I think back over all of the times that had things gone just a little bit different.

- Had the car been going just a little bit faster
- Had I left my house five minutes sooner
- Had I stayed in the relationship...
- I was so close to destruction...but God delivered me!

And that was the impetus, the catalyst and the inspiration that led David to sit down and begin to pin the words...

Come magnify the Lord with me!

Let us exalt his name together!

God didn't deliver you to worship alone.

I need a plus-one!

I need someone to magnify the Lord with me!

God didn't deliver you to worship alone!

**You weren't designed to war alone...You weren't destined to walk alone, and you weren't delivered to worship alone...**

And You Can't Win Alone!!

First of all, you need the church!

- I recognize that there is always some lone-ranger in the crowd who thinks they can be saved in isolation.

- I don't need a church to be saved.

- You've obviously outsmarted God. Because the church was God's idea.

- Upon this rock I will build MY church!

- The Lord ADDED TO THE CHURCH daily, such as should be saved.

You weren't designed to war alone, you weren't destined to walk alone, and you weren't delivered to worship alone...BUT...

**You CAN'T Win alone**

**And while you need the church**

**And you need your brother**

**And you need your sister**

**The greatest Plus one...isnt your spouse...it isn't  
the preacher...it isn't the person sitting next to you!  
It isn't whoever invited you today.**

**The GREATEST PLUS one**

**Romans 5:12 tells us that sin and death came to all  
man through one man's sin (speaking of Adam)**

**But vs. 14 tells us just as sin and death came  
through one man,**

**The grace of God which brings salvation came  
through one man...Jesus Christ.**

**You cannot win alone!**

**You can't do enough good to earn your salvation!  
You can't live a good enough life to turn away the  
penalty of sin!  
You can't win alone!**

But you can win!!

Revelation 12:10–12 (KJV 1900)

<sup>10</sup>And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

<sup>11</sup>And they overcame him (**They won**) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

They overcame by the blood of the lamb!