

27 th SUNDAY YEAR B 2021.
THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE.

The book of Genesis has two accounts of the institution of marriage. Gen.1:26-28 sees marriage as a **means of procreation** while in Gen.2:18-21 it sees it as **meeting the human need for companionship and complimenting man and woman**. Both are correct.

The complimentary nature of marriage between man and woman is stressed because God created them for each other. Man and woman will break all other ties and join in marriage. They are no longer two different entities but become one flesh. This is more than a physical union but of a whole human person. Man was not complete until he got a proper matching helper. He had everything, good weather, animals, and environment but something was missing. There was a missing **gap and link** till God created the woman for him (Gen.2:18) “ It is not good for a man to be alone; I will give him a helper who will be like him”.

The gap was filled by the virtue of the same flesh. Man said this is **bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh** since she was created from the rib of man, hence the complimentary aspect of marriage. God created marriage not of angels but of human beings and not made in heaven but in this world which calls for **communication and understanding**. God created them for each other from the beginning and that is the reason why they will break other ties and be joined to each other.

The first reading stresses the fact of marriage as a state of life created by God for **unity and procreation**. “**For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and joined with his wife, and they will become one.**” They are supposed to be **faithful to each other at all costs**. At the heart of marriage is not only romance, feeling, and emotional expression but also the **vow of fidelity to each other**.

Ups, downs, hardships, and good moments will always accompany marriage. The **storms and calmness will be there**. How do we survive in these? We need to wake up Jesus like the apostles, “**Lord don’t you care that we are perishing, sinking in this relationship of marriage?**” It **has flaws, it is limited, it is vulnerable**. Because of the human element in marriage, we need to bear suffering and forgive one another as soon as a misunderstanding occurs.

Jesus will bring **calmness to our troubled** relationships as well as to our society which has affected **not only married life, but even other vocations, priesthood, religious life and even the single life**. **The remedy is there. WAKE JESUS UP!** We are all troubled by **broken marriages, separation, and divorce**. It is a sign of **our wounded broken world**. It needs **REPAIR AND HEALING GRACE. WE MUST TURN TO GOD**.

Our vocations will only be **sustained by love, not by the rigid interpretation of the laws and hardness of heart**. Jesus is calling us to be **humble and trusting like the little ones to whom the kingdom of HEAVEN BELONGS**.