TITLE: ’êm

TEXT: Gen. 2:15-25; 2 Peter 3:8

INTRODUCTION: The title of the message this morning is Em (ame).

 Does anyone know what Em is? Let me give you a hint… It is a very significant Hebrew word….

 A mother and son, a story goes, were outside when a tornado surprised them. The mother clung to a tree and tried to hold her son. But the swirling winds carried him into the sky. He was gone. The woman began to weep and pray: "Please, O Lord, bring back my boy! He's all I have. I'd do anything not to lose him. If you'll bring him back, I'll serve you all my days." Suddenly the boy toppled from the sky, right at her feet--a bit mussed up, but safe and sound. His mother joyfully brushed him off. Then she stopped, looked to the sky, and said, Lord, "He had a hat, "

Did you know that the idea for Mother's Day was born in a small Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia?

 It was 1876 and the nation still mourned the Civil War dead. While teaching a Memorial Day lesson, Mrs. Anna Reeves Jarvis thought of mothers who had lost their sons. She prayed that one day there could be a "Memorial Day" for mothers. The prayer made a deep impression on one of Mrs. Jarvis's eleven children. Young Anna had seen her mother's efforts to hold the war-split community and church together. As she grew into adulthood, the younger woman kept Mrs. Jarvis's dream in her heart.

 On the day of her mother's death, Anna was determined to establish Mother's Day in her honor.

On May 12, 1907, a local observance was held which later spread to Philadelphia. By 1910, Mother's Day was celebrated in forty-five states, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Canada, and Mexico. Elated, Miss Jarvis told a friend, "Where it will end must be left for the future to tell. That it will circle the globe now seems certain."

 On May 8, 1914, President Wilson designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day "for displaying the American flag and for the public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of the country."

 Today we celebrate Mothers day and Em is the Hebrew word for mother.

**’êm ame A primitive Hebrew word; a mother (as the bond of the family); in a wide sense (both literally and figuratively); —a dam.**

Mother and a dam come from the same root.

 What is it that a dam does? It holds a body of water together. A dam is what keeps a lake, a lake.

 A mother does the same thing. A mother is the bond of the family. What holds it together. A mother is the bonding agent in the glue.

Since this is Mother’s day we are going to take a biblical look at motherhood this morning…

I want to start by going back to the beginning… back to the very first Mother…. Back to the creation of Eve.

 We all know the story of creation. How God created the heavens and the Earth and everything in them in 6 days. In fact it was on the six day that God created man. His grand finale of creation. At the end of each day of creating God would stand back and look at what He had created and say, ‘This is good! On the sixth day, After God created man, created His finishing touch of creation, God stood back and proclaimed, this is Very Good!

 What I want to talk about is what happened next…

**Genesis 2:15 - -25 (NIV) 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” 18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 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. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 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.” 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

Are you ready for some deep thinking this morning?

 Ok, here we have God creating man in His own image and likeness. Then God puts the man in the garden to tend it and take care of it.

 Then God brings all the animals before man to see what he would name them. And the man names all the livestock, all the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

Question? How long do you suppose it would have taken Adam to do that?

How long? Hours? Days? Weeks? Months? Years? Decades, maybe even centuries?

 We don’t know how long that process would have taken but my guess is that it took a long time!

 Think of all the different kinds of animals that there are? Think of all the different kinds of birds that there are?

 Did God bring them before Adam one at a time in an endless procession until all where named or did he bring in a few at a time or even one at a time? Possible one or two a day, or a couple a month?

Keep in mind that before sin entered the world through man’s disobedience to God that death didn’t exist! Death is the result of sin so before sin there was no death! Theoretically, if man would never have sinned he never would have died! That means that, as created, man was created immortal!

 What is death? In essence it marks the end of our time. The end of our time in life as we know it anyway.

 Death is a marker in time. Death marks the time of our end on earth.

Before death entered the equation, how was time measured by man?

 Think about it? If you were immortal how would you measure time? If you were born to live forever how would that impact your perspective of time?

 One way that I believe it would impact our perspective of time is that we wouldn’t be a hurry to do anything because we would have an eternity to do it!

 Time would not be a factor in our doing anything because time would be an endless resource. Something that we would never run out of..

 That is how God views time from His perspective.

 What is it that Scripture says is Gods perspective of time? **2 Peter 3:8 (NIV) 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.**

 If you lived in a dimension where time is an endless commodity then a day becomes like a thousand years and a thousand years becomes like a day.

 What does that mean? It simply means that measurement of time becomes irrelevant when there is not marker to end it.

 As created Adam didn’t have the marker of death to be used as a measure of time. To Adam, as he was created, a thousand years was as a day and a day was as a thousand years.

 So in that context of time how long do you suppose it took Adam to name all the animals and all the birds of creation?

I don’t know but I bet he wasn’t in any hurry. I imagine that he took the time to study and enjoy each one of them before he gave them a name.

 Maybe he took a few decades or even a few centuries to do it. What would have been his hurry? He literally had all the time in the world at his disposal at that point.

 Now reflect upon this question? How long was it from when God created Adam until God created Eve? Keeping in mind that Eve wasn’t created until sometime after the animals where named by Adam.

**20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 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. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 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.” 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

 Woman was created, at the least days after man was created but most probably woman was created weeks, months, years or even decades after man was created.

Why was woman created?

Scripture simply says that God saw that for Adam no suitable helper was found (so He created woman).

 Does that mean that God missed something when He originally created mankind? Did God make a mistake in not knowing that man would not find a helper suitable for himself among the animal creation?

 Does this mean that there are things that the omniscient God of creation does not know?

 If there is anything that God doesn’t already know then God is not omniscient, He is not all knowing is He?

 Well, God is omniscient, he is all knowing. God had to know that no helper would be suitable for Adam except woman so why didn’t God create woman at the same time that He created man?

 Why did God hold off for days, weeks, or even years before He created woman? Could it be simply because God wanted man to really fully appreciate and value the gift?

 There is now better way to value and appreciate something then to know what it is like if you didn’t have it.

 Example: Have parents who give their children everything that they want whenever they want it and have another set of parents who can’t do that but save up for that one special birthday or Christmas gift and give their child something that that child has wanted for months or years, something that the child has hopefully waited for and patiently anticipated…..which child do you think will really appreciate and place real value upon the gift given them?

 I can think of no other logical reason why there was a time delay, of how ever long that it was, between when God created man and God creating woman.

 God knew that it would not be good for man to be alone and that the only suitable helper for man would be woman before He even created man…

So why did God delay? I believe it was so that man would see the value and fully appreciate the gift.

 The only way that that was possible, I believe, was to allow man to see what his life would be like without it.

 Adam didn’t know what he was missing but he knew that he was missing something. And when God gave him that something he recognized the value of it. **23 The man said, ‘wo-man,’ “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh! 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

Eve immediately took the position of Adam’s wife…

 The Hebrew word used for wife here is:

**ish-shaw', a woman together with man, wife.**

**24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

The Hebrew word for flesh here is:

**baw-sawr' flesh; by extension body, person;**

 And the two shall become one flesh…the two shall become as one person! One in purpose-one is unity!

 You see I don’t believe that when we look at man that we see the best reflection of the image and likeness of God.

 Nor do I believe that we see the best reflection of the image and likeness of God when we look at woman.

 I believe that we see the best reflection of the image and likeness of God when we look at man and woman joined together in the covenant bond of marriage.

 We see the best reflection of God when the two become one flesh.

Gods divine plan… Man-Woman-wife-mother

 There will be at least one great woman found behind every great man….A Mother and/or a wife!

There never would have been an Isaac without a Sarah, a Moses without a Jochebed, A Samuel with a Hannah, a John without an Elizabeth, Timothy without a Eunice, or a John Mark without a Mary!

 These mothers, and all the great mothers of History, understood the meaning and significance of their name---Em—Mother---the bond, the cement of the family. The glue, the bonding agent which holds the family together.

 A fifteen-year-old boy came bounding into the house and found his mom in bed. He asked if she were sick or something. He was truly concerned. Mom replied that, as a matter of fact, she didn't feel too well. The son replied, "Well, don't worry a bit about dinner. I'll be happy to carry you down to the stove."

 A mother was concerned about her only son going off to college. She wrote the following letter to the college president: "Dear Sir: My son has been accepted for admission to your college and soon he will be leaving me. I am writing to ask that you give your personal attention to the selection of his roommate. I want to be sure that his roommate is not the kind of person who uses foul language, or tells off-color jokes, smokes, drinks, or chases after girls. I hope you will understand why I am appealing to you directly. You see, this is the first time my son will be away from home, except for his three years in the Marine Corps."

Only the love of a mother….

 Years ago, a young mother was making her way across the hills of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms, when she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard. She never reached her destination and when the blizzard had subsided her body was found by searchers beneath a mound of snow. But they discovered that before her death, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it about her baby. When they unwrapped the child, to their great surprise and joy, they found he was alive and well. She had mounded her body over his and given her life for her child, proving the depths of her mother love. Years later that child, David Lloyd George, grown to manhood, became prime minister of Great Britain, and, without a doubt, one of England's greatest statesmen.

 There is nothing in all creation, except the love of God Himself, that parallels the sacrificial love that a mother has for her child.

 In fact, I think that God has given us mothers as an example of the love that He has for us…

 In motherhood we see a practical earthly illustration of the divine sacrificial Love that God has for you and I that was displayed on the cross of Calvary.

Theodore Roosevelt, in a national address once said: *When all is said, it is the mother, and the mother only, who is a better citizen than the soldier who fights for his country. The successful mother, the mother who does her part in rearing and training aright the boys and girls who are to be the men and women of the next generation, is of greater use to the community, and occupies, if she would only realize it, a more honorable as well as a more important position than any man in it. The mother is the one supreme asset of the national life. She is more important, by far, than the successful statesman, or businessman, or artist, or scientist.*

Today we celebrate Mother’s day…..

 Most men have the benefit of the example of motherhood from two sources in their lives. Their mother and their wife, the mother of their children.

For both of these I stand very thankful this morning.

For from each God has revealed to me something of Himself.

To all the moms here this morning---you are doing a good job…keep up the good work.

Realize, recognize your calling to be the reflection of God within your family and your world.

 You have a calling in the raising and nurturing of your Children that is second to none.

 As Roosevelt wisely has said: . *The mother is the one supreme asset of the national life. She is more important, by far, than the successful statesman, or businessman, or artist, or scientist.*

William Makepeace Thackeray…. *Mother is the name of God in the lips and hearts of little children.*

Motherhood—what a privilege---and yet what a responsibility….

 I hope we all see and appreciate and thank God for the mother that He has blessed us with…

 I pray that all mothers come to the full realization of your God given calling to be a reflection of Himself to your world. Manifesting His love as only you can..