

(Food for thought: Gospel: Mark 10: 2-16.)

## **“Fidelity in a broken world”**



Today we see two examples of both the blessings and responsibilities of marital fidelity: one from the book of Genesis and the other from the Gospel of Mark.

There are two creation stories in Genesis, The narrative of today's First Reading is the second account. In the first (Genesis 1: 1-2:4), the man and woman are created in one act - they are called 'Adam.' But in this second account, the man is created first. The woman is created from the man's own body. This is not a creation story of subordination by sequence and priority - the man first, then the lesser" woman. Instead, this is a story of deep intimacy between the two. She is not created from

his foot so that he would dominate over her, nor is she created from his head so that she would rule over him. She comes from where his heart is. They are "one flesh." To achieve this unity while still respecting the uniqueness and even the idiosyncrasies of each, is a feat of great love and labor.

In Mark, it is important for us to capture the spirit of the times in which Jesus lives to help get an understanding of what is going on in the story. In Jesus' world, marriage was a way of binding together two families; the families arranged the marriage of their children. The couple remained children of the parents and docile to their decisions.

The Gospel presents the vision of a whole new way of acting and being. Whether we are married, divorced, single or celibate, we all know how far we are

from fully embracing that vision of new life. We struggle to live the Gospel ideal in all walks of life, including marriage, but we fall short. Yet, the Lord comforts us with the realization of how much we are loved by our God and the assurance that this love is unbreakable.



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