



## It Would Have Been Enough Devotion

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

You might remember a band named Three Dog Night which first began playing in the late 1960's. Their first hit was titled, "One." "One" was a sad song that addressed a post-breakup loneliness. It refers to one as being the "loneliest number." "One" is not the only song of its kind. There are many songs that celebrate togetherness and love, and just as many that speak to the heartache of a breakup or of just being single and alone.

Such songs should not come as a surprise to anyone as God created us to be social creatures. In the beginning we read that God created Adam by forming him out of the dust. God then used the naming of the animals to help Adam realize his own desire for someone like himself. *Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:18).* And, upon seeing Eve for the first time Adam exclaimed, *"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Genesis 2:23).*

With these words we have the first love story of all time! It's important to note, however, that the love Adam and Eve shared was made complete only in their relationship with God. Unfortunately, some time after their introduction they made a seriously horrible decision. They walked a path away from God, away from the love He'd given them to live in and to share. Adam and Eve's decision brought sin and death into God's perfect world. Here is where we are first introduced to the warped understanding of relationships, contentment, and loneliness.

I love to sing. I'm not very good at it, but I don't let that stop me. My philosophy is, if you can't necessarily hit the right notes, just sing louder. This encourages those around you to do one of three of things. First, they might move to another seat. Or, they might join you in singing loudly in the hope of drowning you out. Or, three, they might join you in singing with joy – even if it doesn't fit their idea of what singing is about.

God in His mercy has pulled us out of the muck and mire that is our sin and He has placed us on the solid Rock of faith that is our salvation in Jesus! In doing so, He has given us a new song to sing! It is a song of joy – it is **the** song of faith! (Psalm 40) That song, while always having Jesus at the center, is going to be sung in many different ways by many different people. And while the tune will not always resonate with those around us, we are told to sing it loud as it carries the message of forgiveness and life!

Because of sin, being single in our society sometimes has the same difficult edge to it as singing loud and off-key. As much of our culture is built around couples and families, there is often a stigma of sorts when it comes to being single and being okay with it.

This brings to mind another song: "Dayenu" (pronounced *dah-YAY-noo*). This Hebrew word means, "It would have been enough." For those unfamiliar with this song, it is sung at the

Passover Seder. In the song, there are 15 stanzas representing the 15 gifts God bestowed upon the people of Israel. The first five stanzas involve freeing the Jews from slavery, the next five describe the miracles He did for them, and the last five speak of the closeness God shared with them. Each of the stanzas is followed by the word "Dayenu" ("It would have been enough"), sung repeatedly.

How many times do we forget to pause and notice that where we are is exactly where we ought to be? This may not be by our own reckoning, but according to God's plan for our lives? "Dayenu" is a reminder to never forget God's presence and blessing in our lives. When we become impatient because of our life circumstances as we wait on God to act on our behalf, we are missing the whole point of life. As Psalm 118:24 states, *This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.* Through faith, we can sing out loud and proud the song of forgiveness, life, and joy that we have in Christ! As we live out the faith given us in Him, we can sing or say, "Dayenu."

The lyrics of "Dayenu" say that it would have been enough if God had brought us out of Egypt. They say it would have been enough if He had provided for our needs in the wilderness for 40 years. They say it would have been enough if He had brought us into the promised land of Israel. They say it would have been enough if He had called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9b). Any one of these things would have been enough, but God in His mercy desires to give us everything! He has, in fact, given us "His all" in the giving of His Son to bear all our sin and punishment so that we might have forgiveness and eternal life. God said, as He addressed those living in exile: *I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

These same words God speaks to us regardless of our life situation. His promise and His Presence will always be enough! While it is true that in life one can be a lonely number, in Christ, it doesn't have to be. In Christ, we are made whole and complete. In Christ, we are never a lonely number, but are instead a beloved sister or brother, held close and given a future and a hope in Him! "Dayenu!"

**Prayer:** Thank You, Lord for the gift of life You give and the song we are able to sing in Your love. Bless us to sing it long and loud as we celebrate Your presence in our lives. And bless others to hear it in such a way that they, too, may be touched by Your love and in that love, rejoice in the certain promise of life given us in Jesus our Lord. It is in His name we pray. Amen.

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*Published by:* Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2019