

Genesis 2:21

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

When you read today's verse, did you realize that this was the first time God took something from man? "***He took one of his ribs***" And not just anything, but something that was closest to his heart, his rib. I know that sounds kind of cheesy, but it's actually not, because if you think about it, God took something closest to Adam's heart, and gave him something in exchange that would be even closer to his heart, Eve!

† **Genesis 2:22***Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*

Now, Adam could have complained to God about taking something from him. He could have said, "*Come on God, you took one of my ribs, I need that, it's important to me. What kind of a God would take something so precious from me, and so close to my heart?*"

But Adam didn't complain to God at all about taking something so precious from him. Instead, Adam rejoiced, not in the taking of his rib, but in what, or should we say, in "who" he received in return.

† **Genesis 2:23** *And Adam said:
"This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."*

I'm sure you have seen the little cartoon on social media of a little girl holding a tiny teddy bear and Jesus holding one hand out, wanting her to give it to Him, while He has this huge teddy bear that He is holding behind His back, wanting to give the little girl the huge teddy bear in exchange for her little teddy bear. That looks cute, and it's kind of what we are talking about here, because we are talking about God taking something small, a rib, and exchanging it for something bigger, a woman/wife.

But for us this goes beyond that. Sure you may be dating someone, and God is asking you to give him or her up, because He has someone way better for you. But it's not just a relationship. For all of us, it was a lifestyle that was so close to our heart and so precious to us that God asked us to give up, because He knew it would lead us to eternal death. But in exchange for our old lifestyle, He has given us eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

But even in our walk with the Lord, there may be things we are still holding onto, things that we still consider most precious to us. Now I could give a bunch of example here, but the truth is, we all know what, or who God has been tugging on our heart to give to Him, because He knows that it, or he/she is bad for us, and that He has something way better for us, but like the old saying,

(that I just made up) goes, “*God can’t not place anything good in our hands, while they are full of the bad things that we are hanging on to.*”

† **Matthew 7:7-11** *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

† **Proverbs 9:6 (NLT2)** *Leave your simple ways behind, and begin to live; learn to use good judgment.*