

A Sermon Vignette

The question is asked: Why did the Lord create a partner for Adam? After all, Adam had the angels to keep him company. He wasn't really lonely.

One answer is: Adam felt unfulfilled and unhappy because he had no one to whom to give anything. The angels were self-sufficient, and he could offer them nothing. When Eve came into the world and a family was acquired later, Adam felt needed and was able to enrich his own life by enriching others.

Man cannot live alone, even with bread. *Tzedaka* is a basic requirement of human nature, because when a person gives and assists, he feels needed and useful. Truly, to help others is to help oneself.