

## Audience 5

The Pope starts this audience by saying that to understand the meaning of the ancient texts Christ talked about, we must go beyond the “beginning” and the indissolubility of marriage, and look at both versions of Genesis in a much broader sense, and to do this we will start with “the meaning of man’s original solitude”.

In the second creation account, God said “It is not good that man” (in this case the male) “should be alone. I will make a helper fit for him.” (Gen 2:7 known as the Yahwist creation account). This came before the account of the creation of the first woman NOTE. The first man (*adam*) is defined in the Bible as a “male” (is) only after the first woman was created. This confirms that “man” before the creation of woman meant “human”, but after creation the word used for the male human was “is”. When the bible speaks about solitude of “man”, it means male and female, not just male.

This means then that “solitude” has two meanings, one deriving from man’s (male and female) nature, and the other from the male – female relationship. Genesis 1 ignores this by stating that man is created in one act “male and female he created them”. By man’s nature, we mean man’s understanding and knowledge of who and what man is. By creating the animals and birds and bringing them to man to see what he would call them, God forces man to examine himself. Man becomes aware that he is superior to the rest of creation, and that he cannot consider himself the same as the rest. This means that man is aware that there is no other like him, that he is alone. This is the first meaning of original solitude. This is a positive aspect of humanity. Man now has knowledge of himself in relationship to the rest of creation, and finds himself above the rest.

“but for the man” (male of the species) “there was not found a helper fit for him”. This was the negative aspect of humanity in a way – the second meaning of original solitude, the male – female relationship. It is at this point with the creation of woman that this solitude ended, but the first solitude of man (both male and female) still existed. They were still the only humans in creation, and were aware of their unique and superior status. They are now persons.