

From Paradise To Prison

A Brief Look Back

Genesis 1-2

From Paradise to Prison

Genesis 3:1-24

✓ The Enemy And His Lies – Not Much Has Changed!

Genesis 3:1-5/ Revelation 12:9, 20:2/ John 8:44/ 1 Samuel 23:9-14

- His strategy is always the same:
Half-truth **lies** that question God's **goodness**
- Why did God allow it?
We don't know all the answers, but we do know . . .
 - 1) God was not **caught by surprise**
 - 2) Free beings must have **real freedom of choice**
 - 3) Knowing what will happen is not **causing it to happen**

✓ A Really Stupid Decision

Genesis 3:6-7/ 2 Corinthians 11:3/ 1 Timothy 2:14/ Romans 5:12-19

- Eve was **deceived** – Adam **knew what he was doing**.

✓ Some Really Terrible Consequences

Genesis 3:8-24/ Romans 5:12/ Romans 3:23 & Isaiah 59:2/ Genesis 3:12, 16, 4:1-26
Genesis 3:17-18 & Romans 8:20-23

- 1) Sin & all its consequences were **passed on to all of us**
- 2) We gained an **experiential knowledge** of sin
- 3) Our relationship with **God** has been wrecked
- 4) Our relationship with **each other** has been wrecked
- 5) Our relationship with **creation** has been wrecked

✓ The First Steps Toward A Surprise Ending

Genesis 3:15 & 3:21-24

- 1) A **promise**
- 2) A **substitute**
- 3) An **eviction**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 14, 2012

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching "From Paradise to Prison" was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. We heard this weekend that Satan's favorite strategy is to try and convince us that God is holding out on us and therefore can't be trusted. Most of us have at least one area of our own lives where we struggle with thinking God is not looking out for our good. Circle any of the areas below (or add your own) where you find it more difficult than others to trust that God is good.

Singleness Marriage School Future Work/Job Friends
Children Forgiveness Health Finances Safety Other

2. Temptation is something we all have to deal with. Sometimes we're more successful than other times at avoiding or resisting it. Can you think of any safeguards or strategies you have seen others use or you yourself have in place to resist and/or avoid temptation? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. A big part of finding victory in the spiritual battle we all face is knowing how our enemy works. As we learn more about the devil, we'll be better prepared to understand his schemes and be able to resist him. What do the following verses tell us about who the devil is and how he likes to operate?

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. [NIV]

Isaiah 14:12-15

How you have fallen from heaven,
O morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!
[13] You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,

on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.
[14] I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."
[15] But you are brought down to the grave,
to the depths of the pit. [NIV]

1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. [NIV]

How could 1 John 4:4 and James 4:7-8 be of encouragement to you in your battle against the devil?

1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. [NIV]

James 4:7-8

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [NIV]

2. We often fall into sin because we don't understand how subtle temptation is. It takes us through a series of small compromises and/or unwise decisions until we are enticed into sinning. So if we want to avoid temptation or stand up to it when it comes, we need to be prepared. How could the following passages help prepare you to deal with any temptations that may come your way?

Galatians 6:7-10

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. [8] The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. [9] Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. [10] Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. [NIV]

Romans 6:12-13

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. [13] Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. [NIV]

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. [15] For we do not have a high

priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. [16] Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. [NIV]

What do you find most useful to you from these passages in helping you deal with temptation?

3. When life gets difficult or we don't get what we want (or think we deserve), we can struggle with wondering if God can be trusted to look out for us. And if Satan is so bent on convincing us that we can't trust God's care for us, then it would be wise to strengthen our confidence in his care and concern. What truths do you see in these two well known passages that can help you remember that God can be trusted even when we don't understand what he's doing?

Psalms 23:1-4

A psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

[2] He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

[3] he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

[4] Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,

they comfort me. [NIV]

Romans 8:31-39

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? [33] Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? [36] As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [39] neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

As you consider any areas you may be struggling with temptation, can you think of any safeguards or strategies you need to implement to help you avoid or resist it?

Prayer Requests:

