

The Story of Everything - Week #2

God Makes a Way

Icebreaker: Tell us about something you restored that was broken or run down?

This is how God is with us. God created Adam and Eve to fellowship with Him, but he gave them free will. This meant that they had the opportunity to hurt their relationship with God by not following His plan. Unfortunately, they chose their own way. But God had a plan for their redemption.

Sin enters the world

Genesis 3:1-13 (NIV) *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' " 4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

1. Why did Adam and Eve eat the fruit of the tree?

2. How did this act affect their relationship with God? How do you know?

3. How are we, likewise, attracted to doing things to hurt our relationship with God? (Isaiah 59:1-3, Romans 1:25)

Isaiah 59:1-3 *Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. 3 For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things.....*

Romans 1:25 *They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

4. What were the just consequences of Adam and Eve's decision to eat from this tree? (Genesis 3:22-23, Romans 5:12, Matthew 13:40-42)

Genesis 3:22-23 (the past)

22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

Romans 5:12 (the present)

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

Matthew 13:40-42 (the future)

40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear

Although God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden, He still wanted fellowship with them – they were His children. But because God is righteous and just, He cannot look upon sin. He set up a way for the Israelites to 'sacrifice' something they valued in order to maintain relationship with them. However, no sacrifice from the Jews could actually make up for their sins.

God provides the answer - Redemption

To Redeem - to recover ownership of by paying a specified sum

5. How did Jesus solve this problem? (Leviticus 5:6; John 3:16; Romans 3:24-25)
What would you say was God's motivation for Jesus' sacrifice?

Leviticus 5:6 *As a penalty for the sin they have committed, they must bring to the LORD a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for them for their sin.*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 3:24-25 *and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—*

Romans 5:17-19 *For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! 18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

Philippians 2:5-11 *5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!*

Incarnation: that act of grace whereby Christ took our human nature into union with his Divine Person, became man. Christ is both God and man. Human

attributes and actions are predicated of him, and he of whom they are predicated is God. A Divine Person was united to a human nature. The union is hypostatical, i.e., is personal; the two natures are not mixed or confounded, and it is perpetual (BibleStudiesTools.com)

6. Why is it important that Jesus was fully God but also fully man? (Philippians 2:7-8, Colossians 2:9-10, Hebrews 10:1 and 14)

Colossians 2:9-10 *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.*

Hebrews 10:1 and 14 *The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming – not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship..... For by one sacrifice, He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Future Glory

Philippians 2:9-11 *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

7. What is the position that God the Father gave to Jesus? (Philippians 2:9)

8. Where will all people be in the future? (Philippians 2:10-11)

9. Given that all people will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, what is the difference in outcome between being a believer or nonbeliever? (Matthew 25:31-46)

Matthew 25:31-46 *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you*

gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ 44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ 45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ 46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Application

10. What should be our response to our sin problem?

11. How have we appreciated what Jesus has done for us?

12. John says that we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters because that is what Jesus did. What are practical ways that we can follow His example?