



CREATION

HOMEWORK FOR THIS WEEK - MAY 23

READINGS: Genesis 3-4 (glance at 5), 6; Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-49

- 1) Read Genesis 3. What does this portion of Scripture tell you about the wiles of the serpent, who is identified later in the Bible as Satan? Do you think Satan is alive today? How does he work?

- 2) Why do you think the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was so appealing? What does the serpent offer Eve that is so attractive?

- 3) How does human sin adversely impact God's good creation in the key areas of procreation, marriage, work/rest balance, care for creation and environment?

- 4) Read the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert in Matthew 4:1-11, and list ways his response is different from the response of Adam and Eve. Why is it important that Jesus succeeds where Adam failed?

- 5) Read Genesis 4. How is the story of the fall reflected in Cain's relationship to his brother Abel?

- 6) Read Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-49. What are the contrasts between the effects of Adam's actions and Jesus' actions? Paul viewed Adam as the first "prototype" of human being, and Jesus as the second Adam. The first Adam failed and the second one succeeded. How is Jesus the solution to the human story of sin and death, and what does this mean for your own life?

APPLICATION

"Satan can't create, he can only corrupt." Satan works to undo the "goodness" that God has woven into the fabric of His creation. The first thing Satan did was try to convince the first humans that their God-given identity was not enough. They didn't need to follow God's instructions to them, they could be their own gods and live independently from what God has made and ordained them to do. Satan made them doubt God's word to them and God's intentions of good for them. Satan really got into their minds and thoughts. Take some designated time with God during this week and spend time prayerfully reflecting with Him on some of the ways in which you might be tempted to:

- Forget your own God-given identity and live trying to prove your worth to others through your achievements, your socio-economic status, or any other way;
- Reason with yourself when you gossip, tell a "white lie," manipulate a situation or try to control an outcome instead of being honest with yourself;
- Take an action or make a decision before praying to God about it;
- Let yourself spend time in negative thinking – either negative self-talk or critical/judgmental thinking about others.

Have any of these temptations caused you to give in to sin? If so, spend time confessing your sins to God.

Allow yourself some time to sit and receive God's forgiveness. Feel His light upon you. Envision the father running out to meet his prodigal son as Jesus told the parable. You are the "prodigal" being welcomed home. Let God's compassion, grace, and mercy pour upon you. Take time to thank Him for the assurance of forgiveness that you have received through Jesus Christ.