

**Genesis 3:1, 7**

[The Serpent] said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ...Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

**Romans 5:12-15**

Therefore, just as sin came into the world thru one man, and death thru sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died thru one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

**Matthew 4:1-11 (abbreviated)**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "...Command these stones to become loaves of bread...If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down...All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."...Jesus Said, "Be gone, Satan!" Then the devil left him...

**Intro Question**

The sad news of—high profile athlete—Kobe Bryant's death prompts a tough question. We're forced to consider how to rectify all the good he's done to dignify his daughters and other women after his own faith was rekindled; while, at the same time, accounting for the real and unsavory actions of which he was accused in his past. How do Christians, in Christ, deal with our own past and present darkness?

**Background**

In his Letter to The Romans, St Paul spends the better part the first four chapters detailing the story unrighteousness and sin in contrast to God's righteousness. Until God works righteousness in Jesus the Christ, "Death reigned." The fall narrative in Genesis begins the spread of death—"Death thru sin." Here we learn of the failure of one man to overcome the crafty words and lies hissed out by the serpent. Adam fell for it. The failure of God's representative servant, his vicegerent, leaves the role wide open for the anti-type of this Adam. "The free gift is not like the trespass." There's real hope in Christ's triumph over Adam's sin.

**Discuss:**

1.) ADAM'S HISTORY

One key detail we learn from the temptation in Genesis is that humankind is not alone in the cosmic drama. The crafty serpent roams the pre-fall garden of Eden. Before humans fall to sin and into death, we have an enemy and he is the triune God's enemy. Our real unseen enemy, the evil one, appears as a serpent in the garden and is called the devil, tempter, and Satan my St Matthew.

In the sermon, Tim made reference so some more contemporary writers who have understood the evil enemy as, "A presence and power of an occupying intelligence." Demonic invasion described as: "Subjective voice arises from within and assaulting from without." These descriptions of the power and presence of evil are as real as the ones we find in the New Testament. Walter Wink summarily describes the action in the gospels and NT this way: "...Jesus regards his healings and exorcisms as an assault on the kingdom of Satan and an indication that the kingdom of God is breaking in. The gospel is very much a cosmic battle in which Jesus rescues humanity from the dominion of evil powers."

What does it mean that, "Sin does us." We best served in answering this question by looking back to Genesis to find Adam's failure. What's the clearest contrast between how Jesus responds to temptation and how Adam responds? Seeing the faithfulness of Jesus, might make us wonder what comes out of us when we are hungry, bumped by evil, tired, and tempted.

2.) JESUS' RE-WRITE

In Christ, we see the fulfillment of God's promise to crush the head of the serpent. This is at last bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh! Satan tempts Jesus with food and the skewed use of God's word. In the final temptation, Satan offers Jesus a kingdom without having to weakly and obediently pass through the pain and death of crucifixion. Jesus said, "Be gone, Satan" What would Jesus have given up if he took Satan's offer?

**Questions and Prayer**

1.) Who is your enemy? Since there truly is an unseen enemy, how are you prepared to fight? What does it mean to fight, since Jesus is the end of violence?

2.) What owns you? What rules your day?

3.) Where does Jesus live in your life: past, present, or future?

In Christ...Father, thank you that you created humankind able to be indwelt by your divine Spirit. In your beloved Son we see the perfection of beauty. We see a human happy to trust you. For joy, he endured the cross despising the shame. Thank you for making a mockery of death and the devil by raising from death after three days. We love you for your love of him. Since we have the power gift of his Spirit, make us weak in our own strength so we can faithfully fight our cosmic enemy, Satan. Bless us by the blood of Jesus, please.