

SERMON NOTES

Week 5: May 25, 2014

Romans 5: 12-21

Follow the Leader

THE WORLD GOD CREATED

Creation brought dignity, blessing, authority, and responsibility (Gen.1:1, 27-28; 2:15-17)

Temptation led to the Fall and judgment (Genesis 3)

Creation was marred by sin and its consequences. (Genesis 4)

Sin affected everything: creation, procreation, human interaction, spiritual warfare

THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

Romans 5:12–14 ---¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—¹³ for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

- Sin **entered the world** through Adam
- Death **is the consequence** of Adam's sin
- Death **has spread** to the entire human race
- As long as death remains, **sin continues to exercise** power in God's creation

Our desire to **displace God's rule** with ours has led to chaos, discord, jealousy, rage, envy, hatred, immorality, murder.

GOD REDEEMS THE WORLD

The Temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13): The testing is presented as a conversation, as it was in the garden back in Genesis 3. What are we to make of this encounter?

- The devil wants the **focus to be on you**—your needs and desires. Jesus reveals that our strength is found not in our **independence but upon our dependence** upon God's provision for life.
- The devil **wants your loyalty**. Jesus tells us **worship is reserved** for God alone.
- The devil wants to place Jesus **in a position of faithlessness**. Jesus reminds us that God has **no need to prove himself**.

Romans 5:15–19 ---¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!¹⁶ Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.¹⁷ 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 the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.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.

- The grace of Jesus **reversed the consequences** of Adam's sin and brought life.

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Temptation led to the Fall and judgment (Genesis 3)

Creation was marred by sin and its consequences. (Genesis 4)

_____ : creation, procreation,
human interaction, spiritual warfare

THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

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- Sin _____ through Adam
- Death _____ of Adam's sin
- Death _____ to the entire human race
- As long as death remains, _____ power in God's creation

Our desire to _____ with ours has led to chaos, discord, jealousy, rage, envy, hatred, immorality, murder.

GOD REDEEMS THE WORLD

The Temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13) is presented as a conversation, as it was in the garden back in Genesis 3. What are we to make of this encounter?

- The devil wants the _____—your needs and desires. Jesus reveals that our strength is found not in our _____ upon God's provision for life.
- The devil _____. Jesus tells us _____ for God alone.
- The devil wants to place Jesus in _____. Jesus reminds us that God has _____.

Romans 5:15–19 --- ¹⁵But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹For 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.

- The grace of Jesus _____ of Adam's sin and brought life.

WHAT'S NEXT: Habits of the Heart

CONNECT GROUPS

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OPENING

- Do you have a favorite fairytale? Why do you think fairytales have enjoyed so much favor? What do the story lines have in common?

GOING DEEPER

- Pastor Bruce placed the reading of Romans 5:12-21 alongside the stories of the temptation and fall of Adam (Genesis 2:5-3:24) and the temptation and triumph of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13). How do these passages help us to understand the meaning of Romans 5:12-21?
- Time did not allow us to fully explore the meaning behind vs. 20-21. Reflect on the following instruction from Dr. Thomas Schreiner. He gives us some insight into the importance they lend to Paul's explanation of sin, grace and the law:

The third section of the text introduces the role of the law in history (vv. 20–21). To depict human history in terms of only Adam and Christ leaves out the giving of the law on Mount Sinai, one of the most significant events in history, according to the Jews. The standard Jewish view was that the law was given to restrain sin. The Pauline view was a stunning departure from such a theology, for he maintained that sin was multiplied via the giving of the law. This does not quench the hope of believers, however, because grace

conquers the increase of sin via the law as well. Whereas sin once reigned in the dominion of death, now grace reigns through the work of Jesus Christ the Lord.¹

CHALLENGE

- Christ's obedience makes it possible for humanity to have a new goal: life because of grace instead of death because of sin. Grace overwhelms sin. The offer of God's grace, His free gift, makes it clear that where sin abounds, grace does more abound. Take some time to fully appreciate the profound gift God has given to humanity. God is our only protection from the ravages of sin!
- There is a temptation we must avoid. One commentator put it rather bluntly:

*In our perverted minds, we could then conclude that since God takes care of evil, we do not have to concern ourselves with it any more. If our evil is buried by God's grace, what difference if we do evil? Indeed, if more sin brings more grace, maybe we can serve grace by sinning!*²

As we continue our study into Romans 6, keep those words before you. They will help you to follow the logic of Paul's teaching.

¹ Schreiner, T. R. (1998). *Vol. 6: Romans*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (268–269). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

² Achtemeier, P. J. (1985). *Romans*. Interpretation, a Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching (102). Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press.