

The Drama of Scripture: The Fall (Part 2)

Act 2 in the Drama of Scripture is a very dark scene. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve's disobedience brought sin and its consequences into the world. In just that one chapter of Genesis the impact of their sin is vast. Shame enters the world. They start hiding from God. They blame each other for their sin. And they began living in exile away from the presence of God. The fall was devastating! As you move out of Genesis 3 into the rest of Scripture you see how Adam and Eve's sin taints everything. EVERYTHING! Let's take a look.

Opening Question: What are some ways that you've seen or experienced the effects of the fall this week?

Read Genesis 6:5-6, 11-12

1. What insights does this passage give us about the fall? How bad was it?

Read Ezekiel 22:6-7; Micah 3:1-3, 9-11

2. What types of leaders are Ezekiel and Micah confronting? What do they say about them? How has the fall affected them?

3. How would such leaders affect family, social, political, religious life in Israel?

Read Romans 1:28-32

4. Does Paul's description of the effects of the fall in the first century, continue to describe our world? If so, how do you see these things in our day?

Read Romans 8:19-21

5. What is Paul's point here? What did the fall affect? How?

6. If you were to take all that we've looked at the last two weeks regarding the fall, how would you summarize its effects in one sentence?

One point of application that Brian gave:

Understand that the answer is not in you . . . most of us here this morning have trusted Jesus. We've experienced the reality of being made righteous in God's eyes through Jesus' obedience. We've experienced Act 3. And yet, this point that that answer is not in you is still relevant for us as we continue to struggle with the effects of the fall. We all continue to struggle with areas of sin and brokenness. And sometimes we can tend to think we just need to work harder; we just need to be better. As we struggle with anger or greed or pride or lust or some kind of addiction, we must remember that the answer is not in us. The answer is in Jesus. Trust him. Trust him to change you. If you think you can pull this off by yourself you are underestimating the effects of the fall.

7. Do you think you ever underestimate the continuing effects of the fall on your life? If so, how?

Brian said:

Understanding the effects of the fall should cause us to **live with compassion**. Live with compassion towards yourself. You are not yet who God created you to be in Christ. You will be . . . one day. That is certain! But in the here and now, there are still residual effects of the fall. You make mistakes. You continue to sin. You don't always live like you know God wants you to. Be compassionate to yourself . . . we should also live with compassion towards others – your spouse, your parents, your kids, your neighbors, your friends, your enemies, your classmates, other church members, that guy driving next to you. We can have such high expectations for each other sometimes. We can demand perfection. But if we remember how deeply the fall has affected all of us, we are in a position to have compassion on each other.

8. What do you think of this idea that understanding the effects of the fall can help us live with compassion?
9. Where do you sense a need to apply this point?
10. Brian's last point of application was that an understanding of the fall should move us to pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done." Where do you feel this need the most? What are the broken situations that you see in your life or in the world around you that you'd most like to see the inbreaking of God's kingdom?