Genesis – Session Five

THE RESULTS OF SIN

vs 7 - Hiding

Vs. 8 – hiding from God amidst the very things that God has made for us!

v 9 - WHERE ARE YOU?

vs 10 - The serpent had promised knowledge. And they got it – they are naked!

vs. 11 - Serpent promised – they would be like Gods. Instead they are divided and blaming each other. Sin never brings us together authentically!

vs. 12 – Blaming. Sin does not unite them.

vs 14 – sin has consequences for all of creation!

vs 15 – yes, we screwed up, but God has not abandoned us.

vs 16 – distortion of relationships was not what was intended.

vs. 17 – thanks to sin, an alienation has occurred between us and creation.

Vs 19 – unto dust you shall return – death does not appear to be part of God's plan at all.

vs 20 – notice, the original blessing has not been taken away. Fertility is still possible.

vs 21 – For Jews, who found public nudity a disgrace, this appears to be an almost tender act by God.

vs 22 – the irony seems to be intended. By his disobedience Adam has chosen to fundamentally misunderstand himself as God's creature!

*Original Sin –*

While saints such as Augustine present an almost physical sense of sin, both Vatican I and II shy away from that, since both councils were beginning to understand the layers of truth contained in Gen 1-3.

Catechism #388 – Genesis is trying to *describe* the problem. We cannot understand the solution until Jesus arrives! When we finally understand that Jesus is the source of grace, then we can understand how Adam is the source of sin.

#390 – "The account in Genesis 3 uses figurative language, but affirms a primeval event, a deed that took place at the beginning of human history."

According to the Catechism, our first sin consisted of:

… we preferred ourselves to God (#398)
… we chose ourselves over God
… we wanted to be like God
… we wanted to be without God
… we lose our original grace and holiness (399)
… our original harmony with all things becomes destroyed (400)
… after the original choice in favor of sin, the world is inundated by sin (401)
… every human being born since then is deprived of the 'original holiness and justice' that God had intended in Eden. Our natural orientation toward God has been wounded. We are now inclined to sin (concupiscence). We are born into the wounded human family, and from the very beginning we begin to learn selfish and sinful choices. (406)

Baptism imparts Christ's forgiving grace and breaks the power of this original sin to lead us back toward life in God (409). But our life is a battle between these two strong realities.

Ultimately, this is why Christ's victory of death is crucial for us all.

REVIEW:

1. The Books of the Bible ‘fully ,faithfully and without error’ convey the truth that God wanted put there for our salvation.

2. God worked through human authors to bring us this written account of revelation. The human authors used the language, images, and manners of communication which were appropriate to their day in order to communicate this truth. We run into problems when we impose our own expectations upon the ancient texts. Instead, we should be using our intellect to understand the language, literature and faith of the people of the ancient near east.

3. Genesis 1-3 introduces us to the story of God’s relationship with Israel and God’s desire to save humanity. Genesis 1-3 is telling us *theological* truths that we need to know in order to understand the rest of the story, up to and including the story of Christ.

4. The Truth we are told includes:

+ God created all that is
+ God creates order from chaos
+ God creates a creation that is good
+ humanity is created in God’s image and likeness to share in God’s stewardship and enjoyment of the creation
+ God desires an intimate relationship of trust with humanity. That love assumes that we are *free.*
+ It is self-evident that humanity has, from the beginning, abused its freedom in relationship to God. Our pride and disobedience, our conviction that we don’t need God, is the origin of sin.
+ sin has consequences. Not just for us, but for all of creation and for all generations
+ Christ is the one who, by his obedience, heals the wound created by Adam’s disobedience
+ there is hope, even though the tendency to sin is strong.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For a detailed Catholic study of the Book of Genesis with in depth notes and cross references to church teaching, try:

*Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Book of Genesis* (2010) by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch

For daily scripture study resource, try:

Give Us This Day: Daily Prayer for Today's Catholic (Liturgical Press)
www.giveusthisday.org
I like the "Guide to Lectio Divina" which is found in each month's edition
OR
The Word Among Us (monthly edition)

**On line resources:**

Word Among Us daily meditations (wau.org/meditations) – based on daily mass readings
sacredspace.ie – a prayerful focus on a daily reading, with guides for prayer and meditation
Catholicmom.com - brief daily reflections based on Mass readings
Ronrolheiser.com – weekly reflections from an excellent preacher
liturgy.slu.edu – an outstanding page from Saint Louis University, which links you to several great resources, including "getting to know the readings," "praying toward Sunday," "spirituality of the readings" "music for Sunday," etc. Great resources for Sunday readings all in one place.