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Genesis 3:1-24

The Genesis of God's People:

Why is Everything Broken?

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Introduction: (S1)

1. "PostSecret is an ongoing community art project where people mail in their secrets anonymously on one side of a postcard." (S2-7)
2. It gives us a glimpse into human hearts and what people feel...
3. Some are funny... "I'm a Vegetarian that eats animal crackers."
4. Some are romantic... "She doesn't know it yet but, she's going to marry me."
5. But most tell us people are broken... "Gambling destroyed my 4th + last marriage."
6. People are distrustful, "The first night I shared a room with my black roommate I locked my suitcase."
7. They're hurting; the site translated this, "After the suicide attempt, I do not know how to go on living."
8. Also, that people don't pay attention in church, "While others pray at church I bow my head and think about the TV programs I plan on watching."
9. Why are we broken, why are people hurting? Christianity has an answer.
10. Genesis chapter three is the story of how everything went wrong.

(In this story there is a: #1 temptation, #2 decision, #3 denial, #4 consequence, and one more, #5.)
(The story of why everything is broken begins with a...)

I. Temptation (Gen 3:1-5) (S8)

A. The story begins with a temptation (and a test). (v1a)

1. In the garden, there's only one rule, don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
2. Why put it there? So humans can choose to trust and love God instead of be choice-less animals.
3. Then God makes it harder, v. 1 tells us God makes a serpent that he let's into the garden.
4. This serpent is an angel who wants to be God and so fell, becoming Satan (Isa 14:12-15).
5. Satan tempts Adam and Eve and at the same time God is testing humanity's love for him.

(Parents give their kids an opportunity to obey and show love, but it includes risk of disobedience.)

B. The first temptation was a distortion of God's words and character. (1b-5)

1. The serpent's is a skeptic, a cynic, who incredulously asks Eve, "Could God have said that?"
2. Satan is introducing doubt into God's command ("any tree") and in his character (petty).
3. What is sin? Sin is distortion of what God says and who he is, his truth/truthfulness (1 Jn 3:4).
4. Eve begins to believe the distortion by adding to God's command (don't touch tree, harsh/petty).

C. Have you ever been to an amusement park and walked through a mirror maze? (didn't buy story)

1. A mirror maze distorts reality for our amusement; Satan distorts reality for his amusement.
2. What are the distortions you believe? What are the sins you're being tempted with?
 - a) Food is intended to fill our stomachs—we distort this if we believe it can fill us in other ways.
 - b) Money is intended to help us live life—we distort this if we believe money is the point of life.
 - c) Sex is intended to bind husband/wife—we distort this by enjoying it outside of commitment.

(Temptation: If Adam/Eve believe the distortion, and doubt God, everything will break. Next is...)

II. Decision (Gen 3:6) (S9)

- A. Adam and Eve must decide to either trust themselves or God, and they choose themselves. (S10-12)
1. Adam's commits the first sin, and as our representative (like president), we all fall into sin.
 2. He was the best representative and he still fell, it's because sin is deceptive... it's...
 - a) **Practical** (good for food) = Sin is often useful and logical (taxes/job shortcuts/moving in).
 - b) **Beautiful** (pleasing to the eye) = Sin looks good, its' enjoyable (money, sex o/side marriage).
 - c) **Desirable** (for gaining wisdom) = We want sin, we need it (need success, love).
 3. Sin is practical, attractive, and something we think we need (timeshare allures but binds).
- B. When we make the decision to sin, we want others to make that same decision.
1. The first thing Eve does when she tastes the fruit is to give it to her husband.
 2. Humans approve of other humans who practice sin, who join them (Rom 1:32).
 3. We look for other's approval, because we assume there is safety in numbers (speeding).
 4. What do you joke about at the water cooler, or the soccer sideline, that you know isn't right?

(Why is everything broken? In Adam and Eve, we broke the world by not trusting God.)

(Because of us, everything is broken... this decision leads to...)

III. Denial (Gen 3:7-13) (S13)

- A. When God shows up, Adam and Eve try to hide their sin. (7-8)
1. In our translations, it seems like God goes for a stroll in the garden, but he comes as protector.
 2. "Ruah" is translated at "cool of the day" but it really means "wind, Spirit, breath." (Gen 1:2)
 3. The Holy Spirit who was there hovering over creation at the start has come to guard the garden.
 4. The Holy Spirit comes to cleanse the garden of sin and to convict Adam and Eve of sin.
 5. Instead of confessing, they hide, blame and deny (one of my earliest memories is hiding).
- B. God offers three opportunities for Adam and Eve to repent. (9-13)
1. Opportunity 1: Where are you? = God knows where Adam is but is inviting him to repent.
 - a) Adam is so exposed and so naked he doesn't admit his sin but blames his nakedness.
 2. Opportunity 2: Who told you? Have you eaten? = God knows his sin but invites him to repent.
 - a) This time Adam shifts the blame to 1) God himself (you put her here) and 2) his wife Eve.
 3. Opportunity 3: What is this you have done? = God knows Eve's sin and invites her to repent.
 - a) Eve follows Adam's bad example and blames the Serpent.
 4. It's easy to say sin is out there, corporate, but it's individual, personal, and in our hearts.

(Because of us, everything is broken...)

- C. One day a father heard his two-year old boy crying, so he went up to his room to find him.¹
1. His daughter was there, who was four, and there was also a plastic bat on the ground.

¹ Story adapted from http://www.ezsofttech.com/stories/blaming_others_and_success.asp (accessed 5.20.16)

2. He asked his daughter, “What happened?” And she answered, “He hit his head.”
3. So the father asked, “On what?” And she pointed at the bat, “On the bat.”
4. So the father asks, “Where was the bat?” And she replied, “In my hand.”
5. Is God asking, “What happened?” and you’re blaming the bat? (circumstances/others)
6. Every opportunity is a chance to say, “I did it. I’m sorry. Please forgive me.”

(Because of us, everything is broken...)

(When Adam and Eve were **tempted** to not trust God, they were buying into a distortion.)

(They **decided** to believe the beautiful lie, but then they **denied** it and blamed each other.)

(We’ve had #1 a temptation, #2) a decision, #3 a denial, and now #4 a...)

IV. Consequence (Gen 3:14-24) (S14)

A. The consequence is a **broken relationship with each other.** (v. 16) (S15)

1. In Genesis 1:27 humans were created in God’s image—they were built for relationship.
2. God has experienced perfect relationship forever and he wanted us to experience that.
3. But sin distorts the relationship... now Eve (and all women) will experience pain in childbirth.
4. The relationship between parent and child is now at odds, but so is that of husband and wife.
5. Eve was created from Adam’s rib as his equal in value, his partner, but that relationship is flipped.
6. Now women and men hurt each other, women looking for men to meet their inner needs.
7. And men taking advantage of that, and instead of loving them, using it to get their way.

(Because of us, everything is broken...)

B. The consequence is also **broken relationship with creation** (v. 17-19) (S16)

1. In Genesis 1:28 humans were created to subdue the earth and rule it, but now we're enslaved.
2. Adam is forced to be at war with the ground for his food and then one day die and be buried in it.
3. Romans 8:20a says “the creation was subjected to frustration...” (NIV®) We broke this earth.
4. Tires in rivers, pollution in our skies, abusing pets, trash on the side of the road are all result...

(Because of us, everything is broken...)

C. The consequence is a **broken relationship with God** (v. 20-24) (S17)

1. Adam and Eve and all of humanity loses access to the tree of life, to God’s garden.
2. A barrier was erected between God and humans, a cherubim with a sword.
3. God tells the Israelites to make the tabernacle curtain woven with cherubim, separation (Ex 26:1).
4. But there’s hope, because God has a plan to remove the cherubim, to tear down the curtain.

(See, there’s one more part to Adam and Eve’s story, and to our stories...)

V. Gospel (Gen 3:15) (S18)

(Gospel means “good news”—Mark 1:1 tells us gospel is the “good news about Jesus...”)

(Did you know that even as God punishes Adam and Eve, he gives them good news about Jesus?)

(God curses snake...) **(S19) Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (NIV®)

A. Genesis 3:15 is the “proto-evangelium”—the first gospel.

1. It tells us that one of Eve’s decedents (“he”) will crush the serpent’s head.
2. It even hints at how it will be done—the serpent will “bruise his heal” (wound him!)
3. The descendent of Eve Genesis 3:15 is talking about is Jesus.
4. Because of us, everything is broken; because of Him, we can begin again.
5. Just as Adam lost to Satan in the garden, Jesus goes back to a garden to defeat Satan.
 - a) **Temptation:** In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was **tempted** to disobey God.
 - b) **Decision:** But instead of **deciding** to do it his way like Adam, he trusted and obeyed God.
 - c) **Denial:** Through the lashes, humiliation, and crucifixion, Jesus never **denied** God or us.
 - d) **Consequence:** On the cross Jesus took on the consequences of a broken relationship.
 - e) **Gospel:** If you put your faith in Jesus, God counts you as he counts Jesus, sinless.
 - f) Through Jesus, we're forgiven and holy, and can enter into God's presence in the garden again.

(Because of us, everything is broken; because of Him, we can begin again.)

Conclusion: **(S20)**

1. Which stage of the story are you in?... Are you being **tempted** to disobey God, to sin?
2. You have a **decision** to make, trust God or trust yourself. (sin is practical, beautiful, desirable)
3. Maybe you’ve already made the decision and you’re in **denial** about how bad it is.
4. God is giving you an opportunity to repent, to say you’re sorry, and start anew.
5. Maybe you’re already experiencing the **consequences** of your sin...
6. There’s hope, because no matter what stage you’re in, there’s always **gospel**.
7. When we believe the gospel, we can resist temptation, trust God, and admit our sins.
8. Through the gospel Jesus takes the sting of consequence for us and gives us new life.
9. **Because of us, everything is broken; because of Him, we can begin again.**

This benediction encourages us that just as Jesus defeated Satan at the cross, he will one day destroy him completely when he returns...

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. (NIV®)