

“The Beginning of The Story”

Intro:

- New Series/Lenten Series: “The Story of God, The Story of Us” - ONE Story with a ‘scarlet cord’ of love running throughout it.

Tension: God is awesome when it comes to creation. Made awesome stuff, like the birds, the trees and armadillos. God even made this awesome creation called man and woman/humankind IN HIS IMAGE. but we don’t act like, and there’s a very good/bad reason why.

Genesis 1:1-2

- Holy Spirit, Hebrew Word= Ruach
 - Psalm 33:6
 - Job 26:13
 - Other places in the OT a form of Ruach is used for breath of life
 - NT= Acts 2:2 ‘rushing of a violent wind’
- Jesus=Word= John 1:1-3

Genesis 1:3-13

- God said= it was so
- It was GOOD
- Days of Forming and days of Filling

Genesis 1:14-27

- Image= humans created in the image; fearfully and wonderfully made; Ephesians 2:10 God’s masterpiece!
- Made For relationship
- Angels
 - Lower than humans in glory; Have no choice but to worship the Lord
- Humans created to have choice; ability to choose to love and walk with their Creator
- Imagine God looking at Adam & Eve the way we look at our new born baby (joy/love)
- Imagine God walking with Adam and Eve in the garden, Eve holding on to the Father’s hand like us walking with our child...

Genesis 1:28

- Divine Benediction - Two fold directive
 - Multiply= increase number, man and woman = created to procreate (why ‘pull to procreate is exactly as strong as it is - so that mankind will procreate and continue)
 - Fruitful= produce things, make things
 - Way to do it is by being a good steward of all the things God placed in our hands (That call hadn’t changed)

Genesis 1:29-2:3

- Study Bible: “God rested on the seventh day not because he was weary, but because nothing formless or empty remained. His creative work was completed, and it was totally effective, absolutely perfect - ‘very good’
- Unspoiled Splendor!
- At this time in history, everything was beautiful, everything is perfect, unblemished,
- No sickness, no pain, no taxes :)
- God created this incredible, breathtaking world, and wanted to share it, with us

Genesis 3:1

- Lie, he said ONE tree

Genesis 3:2-3

- Lie, didn't say couldn't touch it, said you couldn't EAT it
- The Serpent accuses God of having unworthy motives
- Satan takes truth and twists it so no longer truth, and deceives us
- The Father desired intimate, familial relationships with his kids
 - Satan came to break up the family
 - That's who Satan is - an evil, home-wrecker
 - Satan wants us far from God, he is a destroyer of beauty, a defiler, a crafty son of a gun

Genesis 3: 4-9

- Proof of God's desire to spend time in relationship with humankind - walking in the garden in the cool of the day looking for his beloved...couldn't find them, God knew something had changed, they had never hid before...

Genesis 3:10-11

- A place of joy and fellowship with God became a place of fear and hiding from God
- Imagine God's heart in the moment when he realized what had happened
 - Broken-hearted; His children having chosen sin over Himself...
 - Like a parent who has been broken-hearted over one of their children's choices
 - Rejected
- 'No longer innocent like children, they had a new awareness of themselves and of each other in their nakedness, which now produced in them a sense of shame.'
 - Guilt is feeling bad about what you've done - trigger to seek the Lord's forgiveness and grace
 - Shame is feeling bad about who you are, which is not of God - shame is a trigger that something has changed your image, and the only one who can restore your image is Jesus
 - Once do so, repent and turn to the Lord, it's instantaneous and complete (sozo baby, the whole Shabang)
- Ramifications:
 - Pain of childbirth
 - Toiling over the land for food
 - Serpent was cursed, to crawl on his belly and eat dust all the days of life, and man will crush your head, and the serpent will strike man's heel
 - God is not happy, And yet, in verse 21, God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed well; God is so gracious
 - Separation from God; distortion of our divine likeness/image and that condition is handed down through each generation as heirs of Adam and Eve, but that's not our true identity
 - Romans 5:18-19 New International Version (NIV)
 - **18** Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. **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.
 - Call to salvation
 - REMEMBER, when it comes to The STORY, we are just getting started! It's all connected: The Story of God; the Story of Us...