FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Message #1

Why is Everything a Fight?

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith…

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Why is there a fight?

What is this fight?

When & How did it all start?

For these answers we go back to the beginning.

God Created His Family – Two Parts

- God created a **Spiritual Family**
  - Not many details about their origins
  - **Heavenly Hosts**, **The LORD of Hosts**
  - Angels, Arch-angels, Cherubim, Seraphim and all sorts of spiritual beings
- God created a **Human Family**
  - Genesis 1 & 2 – begins with Adam & Eve

A loving God chose to create and to share His creation and work with other created beings.

Heaven & Earth joined together!

3 Major Rebellions

- Rebellion happens in God's Spiritual Family & Human Family.

- Genesis 3 – The Fall
- Genesis 6 – sons of God & daughters of men, violence
- Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel

Adam & Eve were created to be Living souls.

- Fully alive to **God**, each **other** & **creation.**
- Their existence was **intertwined** with God.
- They **walked** with God in the cool of the day.

Adam and Eve became Exalted souls.

- Exalted their will & desires **above** God.

Genesis 3 tells the story.

Genesis 3:6-24*

This helps explain why everything is such a fight, a struggle now.

Psychological Confusion Enters

Genesis 3:7a

Then the eyes of both of them were **opened**, and they knew that they were **naked**

- Direct opposite of Genesis 2:25 – "naked…and not ashamed"

Guilt, vulnerability, insecurities & confusion enter into the human mind.

Fig Leaf Religion Begins

Genesis 3:7b

and they sewed **fig leaves** together
and made themselves coverings.

- "**self-righteousness**" or "**self-help**" enters
- "Covering up" is now an idea for hiding shame

Hiding from God Begins

- (vs 8) They **heard** God and they "**hid** themselves"

- They go from "**walking**" with God to "**hiding**" from God.

- Sin makes us hide from God & each other.

The Famous Question

<u>"Where are you?"</u>

- Instead of writing them off or destroying them, <u>**God comes**</u> to Adam & Eve.

(even in their disobedient state)

The **Blame** Game Starts
Relationships Begin to Breakdown

- Adam: "The **woman** whom **You** gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

- Eve: "the **serpent** deceived me"

...to the woman (vs 16)

16a To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children”

- Pain = **grief**, **sorrow**, **toil**
  - –Childbirth pains or **pains in conceiving**

Idea: You are going to be grieved & worried about your children coming into and living in this messed up world.

...to the woman (vs 16)

16b "...Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

- All of this is **negative** because sin has come in.
- There is going to be **conflict** in the home.

...to the woman (vs 16)

- Idea: There will be this **power struggle** between husband & wife, male & female. This will happen because you now live in a world where "everyone does what is right in their **own eyes**". **Selfishness** will be main motivation.
- Women will want to be **domineering** over their husbands.
- Husbands will **assert** dominance over their wives and forget they are to be co-rulers together.
- Marital **conflict** will result.

...to the man (vs 17-19)

17a Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake;

- Listened to her instead of **God**
- **Ground** is cursed
  - God curses the serpent and the ground, not the humans

…to the man (vs 17-19)

17b "…in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

- Toil = **grief**, sorrow, **pain** (same spoken to the woman)
  - –Producing food and providing for yourself and your family will be grievous.
  - –Life and work is going to be **difficult**.

...to the man (vs 17-19)

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

New Reality

Thorns & thistles…..**Sweat** of your face

It's gonna wear you down to the **grave**.

...to the serpent (vs 14-15)

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are **cursed** more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall **eat dust** all the days of your life.

Our enemy's future

Cursed

Humiliation, defeat & death (dust)

...to the serpent (vs 14-15)

The First Mention of **The Gospel**

Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Two Kinds of People

- Seed of the **Woman**
  - –Righteous Line
  - –Choose to **follow** God

- Seed of the **Serpent**
  - –Unrighteous Line
  - –Choose to **rebel**

God's People

Fight

War

Snake People

Snake Crusher
(will destroy the serpent, but be wounded in the battle)

Because of sin & rebellion
Everything is a fight!

FIGHT
THE
GOOD
FIGHT