

2009HERO #1 JUNE 14 TO TELL THE TRUTH ,ADAM AND EVE

Genesis 3:

Adam and Eve teach us that when we second guess or mistrust God, we begin to believe God is cheating us, hurting us, or restricting us, Then it's easy to open the gates to the lies of the world.

A famous preacher once joked from the pulpit:

“In English they teach us that 2 negatives make a positive statement (i.e = "there's no way I'm not going to go").

So the way I figure it, if I know I'm lying, and God knows I'm lying – I gotta be telling the truth.”

We are a society that lives by lies and deception.

How many of you said: I am going to start my diet tomorrow.

How many checks are really in the mail?

How nice do you look in that “One size fits all?”

Those who think it's permissible to tell white lies soon become color-blind.

- Austin O'Malley

Most of us don't think of truth as flexible.

Truth can't be altered or amended.

Truth - by its very nature - is consistent, reliable, bedrock – we don't change “truth.”

Margaret Thatcher once responded to a reporter who was badgering her, “Of course it's the same old story. Truth usually is the same old story.”

Satan came to the garden of Eden to undermine the truth of God.

He came to compromise truth.

I. SATAN COMPROMISED TRUTH

Satan came to Eve and began to undermine the truth questioning the truth.

Of what God told Adam and Eve -

You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die. Genesis 2:16-17

And Adam and Eve took that as a “moral absolute.”

God said it, they believed it and that settled it...

But then, Satan came for a visit. He started with a question:

“Did God really say?...” (Gen. 3:1)

1 Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the creatures the LORD God had made. "Really?" he asked the woman. "Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?" Genesis 3:1

I don't know how many time I have had people ask me:

Do you REALLY believe the Bible is inspired?

Do you REALLY believe in demons?

Do you REALLY think a loving God will send people to hell?

Behind these questions was a subtle mocking –

“You can’t REALLY be serious...”

My usual response is that it is in the rule book, the Bible,
The Word of God.,
Until he changes the rules,
I am under obligation to follow.
Wouldn’t it be so much easier to just throw out the rules?
Live as we please.
But it is in the book.

And isn’t that just how Jesus dealt with Satan in the wilderness.
Satan challenged Jesus, attempting to get Him to deny the truth of His mission,
and each time Jesus responded: “It’s in the book.”

“It is written.”

When we stand on God’s word we will never have to apologize later.
Jesus said: God’s **“Word (the Bible) is truth” (John 17:17).**
Remember, Satan’s first strategy was to attempt to question truth.

Today we have a world full of people whose life aim is to
Undermine the belief in “absolute truth.”

When I was going to Westmar College in the 60’s
I was introduced to the concept of “Moral Relativism.”
Moral Relativism is the belief that truth is changeable or
that it depends on your point of view.
Or the relative circumstances from where you stand.

Take the American association of Education.
Their high school textbook “Inquiries in Sociology” declares
"There are exceptions to almost all moral laws, depending on the situation.
What is wrong in one instance may be right in another."

George V. Denny a radio talk show personality
had a ball he liked to display when the question of tolerance came up.
Grasping the ball tightly in his hand, he would ask, "What color is it?"
The person questioned would take a quick look and answer, "Black."
Denny would then shake his head.
"The part I see is white."
He would give the ball a twirl to show the other half - white.
"We could never agree on the color of this ball," Denny would point out,
"unless you knew my point of view and unless I realized
you were looking at it from another point of view."

Now, that sounds reasonable when dealing with attitudes
like tolerance and personal opinions.
But if we use that standard when examining morality,
we end up with no moral absolutes –
no yardstick about what is right and wrong.
Morality is then determined by our experience,
And not by intrinsic natural principle.

Satan ploy was simply to try to discrete the truth.
Did God really say?

II. SATAN DENIED THE TRUTH

In fact, those who reject absolute truth are ABSOLUTELY SURE there is no absolute truth.

4 "You won't die!" the serpent hissed. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened when you eat it. You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil." Genesis 3:4-5

The principle of “relativism” suggest that there are two sides to every question”, that the world is full of exceptions to all moral laws. And no one has the right to say someone else’s activities are morally wrong”

Satan said: “You won’t surely die”
Satan was trying to influence Eve,
With his opinion.
Opinion is what lies at the heart of the relativistic idealism

Have you ever wondered why we place so much emphasis on polls and surveys?
When you have no absolute truth,
Polls and surveys become truth.
America is a “poll driven” country.
Establishing its morality on the ballot box.

We say: Isn’t that a better way because everyone gets an opinion,
And everyone point of view is acknowledged.
No feelings are hurt.

Friends a majority vote can be morally wrong.
Scripturally wrong.
Biblically wrong.
We can defeat that which is actually right and true.

A preacher who was having a violent argument with his board.

He was unwavering in his opposition to one of their decisions.
Realizing they were getting no where with the preacher,
the board called for a vote.
The result: 12 to 1 against him (his being the only negative vote).
Nonetheless, the preacher was adamant and he prayed to God,
“show these men that I’m right.”
Almost immediately, what had been a clear summer day outside the building turned immediately dark and a terrible storm ripped across the landscape.
The board observed this development with some discomfort, but told the preacher that while that did seem to be an answer to his prayer,
it was not proof that God was against them.
So, the preacher prayed again and the ground shook beneath their feet,
the windows rattled and the table and chairs moved across the floor.
Again, the Board seemed shaken –

there had never been an earthquake in that area before –
but they still agreed, this didn't prove anything.

Again, the preacher fell to his knees and fervently prayed –
TELL THEM...I'm right!"

Lightning split the night, crashing thru the window, split the table in half and a voice
thundered from heaven: "HE'S RIGHT"

The Board members picked themselves up off the floor,
looked uneasily at each other, and then nodded to the chairman.

The Chairman then sadly spoke:

"It may be that God agrees with you –but you're still outvoted = 12 to 2."

When morality and truth is based upon the majorities opinion.

It leads to death.

God Word says:

**"There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof leads to... death."
(Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25)**

We are a nation walking toward the edge of death.

A survey was taken that found out that

fully 3 out of every 4 Americans believe there are no moral absolutes.

57% of teenagers say lying is necessary.

Not merely convenient, common, understandable or acceptable,

But necessary.

U.S. News (7/21/97) quoted a professor Robert Simon of Hamilton College in Clinton,
N.Y. as reporting that "10 to 20% of his students... acknowledged the Holocaust but
couldn't bring themselves to say that killing millions of people was wrong.... one student
told Simon, 'Of course I dislike the Nazis, but who is to say they are morally wrong?'"

An article in "Chronicle of Higher Education" said that some students are unwilling to
oppose large moral horrors, including human sacrifice, ethnic cleansing, and slavery,
because they think no one has the right to criticize the moral views of another group or
culture."

SATAN TRIED TO DENY TRUTH When it didn't work when

III. SATAN DISCREDITED GOD.

HE BEGAN to cast doubt on God

to cast doubt on his word.

**"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be
like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:5**

Today we face the same temptation of Adam and Eve.

Satan is attempting to convince us that God can't be trusted.

How many people have you heard say:

God doesn't want what is best for you...

He's jealous of you.

He knows...you'll be just like Him.

How many people have you talked to in life,

That because of some circumstances,

Have come to believe that God has failed them.

God is to blame for their pain their lot in life.

God had turned life against them.
If only God had done something different.

They believe that the only authority they can trust is themselves.
And when we take God out of the picture there is no final authority
of what is right or wrong left - except ourselves.

AND Now notice what happens next:

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:6

Eve's opinion became the standard of what was true.

She saw the tree was good for food (I doubt she was hungry)

She saw the tree was pleasing to the eyes. (I doubt this tree had more beauty than others.)

She saw the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom.-Can one tree look smarter than others?

How does this happen?

How do people get to point where they distrust God,
Reject absolute truth and embrace such absurdity...

A. Partly because of rebellion.

Daniel 8:12 states: "Because of rebellion... truth was thrown to the ground."

B. Partly because stubbornness.

absolute truth gets in the way of what many people want to do with their lives.

Jeremiah 7:28 declared "This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips."

C. Partly because of pride

people don't want God or anyone else in charge of their lives.

Paul wrote that there were those who had

"a form of godliness but denying its power always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. 2 Timothy 3:6-7

D. Partly because of power.

And lastly, rejection of "absolute" truth has happened because Satan is still ruler of this world. He wants power. And Scripture tells us "Satan is a liar." Jesus said (referring to Satan):

"When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44b)

How do we deal with this last challenge by Satan?

We need to realize that even when life doesn't turn out the way we want it to...

God still cares...

God still loves us...

and God still wants to what is best for our lives.

Because he is an alive thinking loving caring being.

Who created us.

But we will have to be willing to change.

To turn around,

And to go even against the world.

When I was traveling with the Westmar Quartet we toured the grape farms in the valleys of California. The branches of his vines are tied to long wires that run between the plants. The wires were attached to posts. Every few years they would have to go through the vineyard and replace the posts. The branches stay in contact with the living root and they are sustained from year to year. The posts are placed in the same ground, right next to the vine, but having no root, not only do they not grow, they begin to rot.

What do we learn from our first parents? Adam and Eve?

1. Whenever we reject God and his truth, life has eternal consequences

We began to rot inside like post because we have no roots.

2. Satan, the Deceiver and Father of Lies is always at work to discredit God.

We need to stay connected to God in prayer, in meditation of his word

And in reflection on what it means to us.

3. We learn that God's forgiveness is available even when we fail.

Just trust God, seek his forgiveness and grace and come back to your roots in Christ.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, Forgive us as individuals, and as a nation for moving away from our Biblical roots. For taking the way of opinion and polls instead of your Holy Word. Help us to surrender our pride and arrogance before the cross and discover a new beginning in your forgiveness and grace. I pray in Jesus name.