EPIC – Week 6

November 11, 2009 Teaching Outline

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RECAP:

The Bible as an epic story involving the whole world…

- It's real, it is happening still, it involves you, and it changes who we are

Before creation, God is betrayed and heaven goes to war

- Lucifer, captain of angels, wanted God's worship – becomes God's enemy

God makes the earth, sky, oceans, land, animals, sun, moon…

- Then God stoops in mud, forms man, breathes life into his nostrils.
- We are the pinnacle of creation.

Garden of Eden – not a little tiny backyard garden

This was God's intended design for man and for creation

- Beautiful in its truest form.
- Completely innocent – no sin, no pain, no knowledge of evil
- Peace – on the seventh day God rested – nothing left to improve

A design for relationships:

- Fellowship with God – complete access
- Fellowship with each other – Adam and Eve
- Total peace, total joy – no sin like selfishness, jealousy, shame, etc.

This was God's intended design and it was AMAZING.

But something happened…

Satan creates MISTRUST of God

- Satan twits God's words & lies to Adam and Eve
- Satan convinced them they couldn't TRUST God

The choice of Sin – Adam and Eve eat from the tree

- They decide for THEMSELVES what was good or evil
- Instead of living under GOD'S RULE

At that moment, everything changed. For then on... <u>Sin ruins everything.</u>

The consequences of sin

- Pain, hard labor, struggle against creation
- Broken Relationship: Man and Woman
- Death (no longer eternal life)
- **Banished from the Garden / Banished from God's presence**
- God is HOLY and can not be in the presence of sin
- Don't we ache to have that kind of fellowship with God again?

Through Genesis, all the way to today, sin continues to each generation…

***The story could have just ended here, but God had a plan to rescue mankind*.**

LAST WEEK: God's Covenant with Abram (Nov. 4th)

- God chooses Abram…Abram didn't earn it…to begin the rescue of mankind

Genesis 17:3-7
Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,"…this is my covenant with you…an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants, to be your God.

Genesis 12:2-3
I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you…and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

God makes an UNBREAKABLE promise to bless all peoples through Abram.

- The great nation is Israel, Abram's descendants. Through Israel, God will reveal himself, and **ultimately send Jesus to rescue mankind from the curse of sin.**
- This promise, to be our God, is God promising to never leave us and to send rescue. God will restore us to the way he intended life to be.
- **God makes a promise to rescue us through Jesus, THROUGH Abram.**

What is a promise to us?

- We may or may not keep our promises

For God, a promise is so much different

- God is "faithful" – literally INCAPABLE of breaking a promise
- When God promises, it's as good as done. You can bet your life on.
- His promises are often sealed in blood and given a sign to remember
- Abram – sign of circumcision and sealed in blood

2 most important things to remember from this part of the story:

- God promises rescue to restore life to how it was intended to be
- When God promises, it's so certain that we can bet our life on it.

God loves us, and promises to rescue us back to the life He intended

- Like one of my favorite movies…

(VIDEO – "Last of the Mohicians")

TO RECAP THE WHOLE STORY:

- God has an intended design for our lives…and it's good. It's the best.
- Sin ruins everything.
- God promises rescue.

And now we are ready for the next chapter in the story…the law.

THIS WEEK: The LAW (Nov. 11th)

The story from Abraham to Moses

- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Esau, Joseph & the 12 brothers, Egypt
- Abraham's descendants become a nation (just as God promised)
- But they are enslaved – in need of rescue
- God sends Moses to RESCUE them
- The exodus…through the desert to Mt. Siani
- God gives Moses the Law

(VIDEO – "History of the World – 10 Commandments")

What kind of "laws" did Moses receive from God

- *Civil law* – property, treatment of servants, lawsuits
    - Many of these concepts are the basis for society TODAY
- *Moral law* – justice, mercy, and the 10 commandments (defining right and wrong)
- *Ceremonial (Religious) law* – Sabbath laws, annual feasts, instructions for worship and sacrifice

The law isn't a bad thing…it makes life BETTER

- "Law" in the bible is "Torah" which means "teaching" or "instruction"
- Israel was blessed to have God give them these wise, useful, instructions
- Dodo-ronomy the twenty-terd chapter…
- Burying your poop outside your camp is great practical advice!
- How to be wise…how to enter into God's presence…this is important stuff!

Psalm 19:7
The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statues of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The main thing to understand tonight:
The law given to the nation of Israel was the beginning of His rescue plan to restore His rule and His presence…his intended design for life.

- In the Garden of Eden, GOD defined right and wrong and was physically present
- God's Rule and God's Presence…the way life is intended and is BEST.
- The law, in part, began this rescue to restore this life.
- But what the law could only do in part, JESUS would do fully and completely.

SO…If Jesus is the true, full, rescue plan…than why did God give the Law?

PURPOSES OF THE LAW:

1. *Guides us to the holy life God intended*

The misperception of the law…God is out to ruin your fun.

- A random list of rules from a power-hungry God trying to control you.

(VIDEO – "Guard Rails")

- Like those guard rails along the road, the law helps define the path of living the kind of life God desires.
- AND God's rules help us avoid heartache and pain.

PURPOSES OF THE LAW:

2. *Reveals our sin –*

- We need an unchanging standard to measure against - that standard is GOD.
- The law defines right and wrong so we see our selves for what we really are… …ugly, filthy sinners.

(On Stage Illustration – Dirty White Hat)

- My hat looked pretty white…until it was measured against REAL white. Then you saw all the ugly filth and stains.

3. *Reveals our need for a Savior*

- Even though we have God's standard and we try and try to live up to it…
- It's impossible to obey the law perfectly and reach God's standard in the law.

(On Stage Illustration – Grand Canyon Long Jump)

- No matter how hard we trained, we could never jump the Grand Canyon.
- No matter how hard we try, we can't live the holy life on our own.
- We need a Savior to rescue us from our sin and mistakes.

The law is extremely important and useful…but WE STILL NEED A SAVIOR.

Galatians 3:24
The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith [in Christ].

Are you living "under the law"…trying to live by God's standards on your own?

- Do you think being a Christian is just about obeying the rules?
- Have you let Jesus rescue you from your sin and mistakes?
- Only He can offer you FORGIVENESS, now and for eternity
- Only He can restore you to the life God intended…His rule, with His presence.

Next week…final 2 purposes of the law

4. Reveals God's character – His holiness
5. Restores God's presence in the tabernacle with his people

…And we will experience them first hand in a unique, powerful time of worship. You want to be here for it.