



Week #7: BRIDGE OUT

1. INTRODUCTION

2. GOALS

- a. The identity of the serpent
- b. What happened?
- c. Genesis isn't telling us what happened but what always happens.
- d. The seriousness of sin and its effects
- e. God's reaction

3. THE IDENTITY OF THE SERPENT

- a. His creation
- b. His rebellion
- c. His motivation for rebellion
- d. His names and strategy:

4. WHAT HAPPENED?

- a. The temptation
 - i. Adam and Eve bought into the lie that God is not a Good Father.
 - ii. They didn't fall; they rebelled.
- b. The sin
 - i. Open rebellion

5. WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS

- a. Temptation is an attempt to have us determine what is GOOD instead of depending upon God.
- b. Process of temptation begins with boredom, then turns to curiosity, then to a lack of trust in God which results in rebellion.

6. THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN

- a. Sin is the perversion of the good.
- b. The only way to "hurt" God is to hurt that which he loves—which is the human person made in His image.
- c. The results of sin: division between man and God, between man and woman, between the soul and the body, between man and creation.

7. GOD'S REACTION

- a. God searches for man.
- b. God sheds creation's blood for man's good.
- c. God promises salvation.

QUOTES: "All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin which is not mortal." 1 John 5:17

"To know Jesus crucified is to know God's horror of sin; its guilt could be washed away only in the precious blood of God's only begotten Son become man. Perhaps the greatest sin in the world today is that men have begun to lose the sense of sin. Smother that, deaden it—it can hardly be wholly cut out from the heart of man—let it not be awakened by any glimpse of the God-man dying on Golgotha's cross to pay the penalty of sin, and what is there to hold back the hordes of God's enemy from over-running the selfishness, the pride, the sensuality and unlawful ambitions of sinful man?... In the Sermon on the Mount the divine Redeemer has illumined the path that leads to the Father's will and eternal life; but from Golgotha's gibbet flows the full and steady stream of graces, of strength and courage, that alone enable man to walk that path with firm and unerring step." Pope Pius XII, Radio Message, October 26, 1946.



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QUESTIONS for reflection/discussion:

1. The Sacred Teaching that Adam and Eve exemplify humanity, shows us what always happens concerning sin and temptation. What is the essence of all temptation? What is the essence of sin? How do I perceive sin?
2. Pope Pius XII declared, "Perhaps the greatest sin in the world today is that men have begun to lose the sense of sin." (Radio Message, Oct. 26, 1946. For full text of this message, please see olgcparish.net/rerouting Week 7). Do you agree and why? (1 Jn. 1:8-10)
3. What are the similarities between Satan's temptation in the garden and the way he works today in our lives?
4. Discuss your awareness of the presence of the demonic in today's society and the reality of spiritual warfare.
5. Do you make up your own rules for sin and thus make yourself your own judge?
6. What is the way to combat sin, personal and social? Should there be a hierarchy of approach? Are some sins worse than others? What makes sin deadly (1 Jn. 5:16-17)?

For next week: Pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament for a great awareness of sin in your life. See the Sacrament of Reconciliation.