

My Brother or Sister

Week of 9th of June 2024

Leader: Opening prayer

Read Genesis 3 : 8 – 15

Ref V 8 to V10

Why were the man and woman so embarrassed to be naked? Nothing had changed from before they ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge after all.

Why did God not want the man and woman to be able to distinguish between good and evil? Do you think he originally had a plan to give that knowledge to the man and woman at a future date?

Why did the serpent know more about the implication of eating from the tree of knowledge than the man and woman and why was it so keen to lead them astray?

Ref V11 to V15

Given the sequence of events, which party did God hold most responsible for such an act of disobedience; the man, the woman or the serpent?

Would evil exist in our current world if this episode had never occurred?

Read Mark 3 : 20 – 35

Ref V20 to V22

Why were the scribes who came down from Jerusalem so keen to suggest Jesus' power came from evil?

Ref V23

Jesus often spoke to people in parables. Why did Jesus not explain what he was telling the audience more plainly?

Ref V24 to V27

Is it always true that an entity that is divided cannot survive in the long term? Give an example of such a divided entity in our lives today. How are such divisions ultimately resolved?

Ref V28 to V30

The passage says that certain sins can not be forgiven. What is your understanding of that situation?

Ref V31 to V35

This passage says that everyone who does the will of God is Jesus' brother, sister and mother. Some people may not appear to do the will of God. Does Jesus disown them and not treat them as relatives or does he always work on people to make them his brother, sister or mother?

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Background

Book of Genesis

No man can claim to know with absolute assurance who wrote the Book of Genesis. Since Genesis is a necessary foundation for Exodus to Deuteronomy, and since the available evidence indicates that Moses wrote these four books, Moses is likely the author of Genesis itself.

(Quote from Cambridge RSV)

Mark's Gospel

The Early Church is practically unanimous in ascribing the Second Gospel to Mark, the cousin of Barnabas and associate of Paul and Peter. Strong tradition also supports the assertion that in this Gospel we have the preaching of Peter, who calls Mark "my son" (1 P 5:13)

(Quote from Cambridge RSV)