

GOSPEL MONOPOLY

2. GO TO JAIL!

HVC, Jan. 12, 2020

Genesis 3:1-13, 23-24 (NLT)

What food do you find especially tempting? *[Serendipity]*

Have you ever been in a jail? What were your impressions?

How does looking at Genesis 1 (“GO”) affect the way we look at Genesis 3 (“JAIL”)?

How is Monopoly UNLIKE the Christian life?
[e.g. encourages greed, ruthlessness, materialism]

When you ask, “What has gone wrong with the universe” what kind of answers do you hear?

What is the thing that strikes you as most wrong about life and the universe? What breaks your heart the most?

G. K. Chesterton – We all know we are the “*survivors of a wreck, the crew of a golden ship that had gone down before the beginning of the world.*”

Does this quote by Chesterton make sense to you? Why/not?

Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT)

But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden — except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

What do YOU think these trees represent?

What goes through your mind when you hear this prohibition? Why do you think that is?

Genesis 3:1 (NLT)

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

Why might you think that by this point God’s good will would be *beyond* question? *[ch 1-2!]*

What does this tell you about temptation?

[We’re never immune to it ... even when (especially when?) things are going well we are susceptible to temptation.]

Genesis 3:2-3 (NLT)

“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’ ”

How is Eve drawn into “debating this on her opponent’s terms”? (Kidner)

Eve has made the probation even *more* strict than God did! Can you think of other areas where people think of God as more demanding than He really is?

Genesis 3:4 (NLT)

“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman.

What are some other things you hear that flatly contradict what God says?

Have you ever had someone boldly challenge your beliefs like this? How did it feel? What kind of effect did it have on you?

Genesis 3:5 (NLT)

“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

What is tantalizing about this? Why?

Genesis 3:6 (NLT)

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

How did Eve know about the prohibition regarding the trees? (cf. Gen. 2:15-18)

(she could only have known from what Adam had told her!)

What do you think Eve’s motive was? Adam’s?

Genesis 3:7 (NLT)

At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

When have you been “had” ... taken to the cleaners ... made a fool?

Genesis 3:8 (NLT)

When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.

How does this picture strike you? What is appealing about it? Scary?

Genesis 3:9 (NLT)

Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

How is this different from what you might have expected God to do?

Genesis 3:10 (NLT)

He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

What is Adam’s core emotion? (*fear*)

Name as many things you can that people tend to fear.

Genesis 3:11 (NLT)

**“Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked.
“Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”**

What do you think was the tone in God’s voice?

Why does God approach Adam this way?

How might things have gone??

When have you felt most ‘naked’ (e.g. vulnerable or shameful)?

Genesis 3:12 (NLT)

The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

Why does Adam “throw his wife under the bus”?

Who is Adam *really* accusing?!

How is Adam feeling? Eve?

Genesis 3:13-14 (NLT)

Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

**“Because you have done this, you are cursed
more than all animals, domestic and wild.
You will crawl on your belly,**

groveling in the dust as long as you live.

What does it mean to be cursed?

Genesis 3:15 (NLT)

**And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”**

What is the promise here that Adam overhears? How is it encouraging?

Genesis 3:23-24 (NLT)

So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

What does mean to be “banished”?

Why do you think God blocked their access to the Tree of Life?

Romans 3:23 (CEB)

All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory,

Romans 3:23 (The Message)

Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us ...

How does that fact that we *all* sinned affect the way you look at others? Yourself?

[Serendipity] Who was to blame for the Fall? Eve? Adam? The serpent? God? Explain your answer.

What do you think this story is teaching about why there is evil in the world?

How credible do you think this story is as an explanation for evil in the world?

What other other story or philosophy do you find appealing or credible?

How easy is for you to admit wrong?

How would you answer the 3 Questions?

Where are you?

Who told you were naked?

Have you eaten of the forbidden fruit?