

Hymn

I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus,
Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true.
I would tell you how He changed my life completely;
He did something no other friend could do.

No one ever cared for me like Jesus;
There's no other friend so kind as He.
No one else could take the sin and darkness from me;
O how much He cared for me.

The Fall

Return Church

August 2, 2026

Genesis 3:1-9

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where *are* you? **Genesis 3:1-9 NKJV**

What is wrong with us?

- I taught much of this lesson about 6 weeks ago on a Wednesday evening. Pastor Dwayne has asked me to teach this again. If you were here on that Wednesday evening, please do not tune me out, we all could hear this again-and-again.
- In Genesis 3, we see the origins of why is the human race so prone to selfishness, violence, lying, sexual sins, greed, and other horrible behaviors.
- The Bible has a lot to say about sin.
- There is something terribly wrong with all of us.
- There is something in our hearts that says, nobody is going to tell me what to do. I will boss my own life.
- There is something deep inside of us that tries to be our own god.
- We want to be the center of our life and have everyone else revolve around us.
- We all have self-centered tendencies, and inclinations.
- Have you faced yourself lately, and what are you going to do about it?
- Do I have permission to go deep inside your hearts today with God's Word?

Adolf Eichmann

He was a German official of the Nazi Party, an officer of the (SS), a convicted war criminal, and one of the major leaders and organizers of the Holocaust. He was tasked with facilitating and managing the logistics involved in the mass deportation of millions of Jews to Nazi extermination camps across German-occupied Europe. He was captured and detained by the allies in 1945, but escaped and eventually settled in Argentina. In May 1960, he was tracked down and abducted by Israel's intelligence agency, and put on trial before the Supreme Court of Israel. The highly publicized Eichmann trial resulted in his conviction in Jerusalem, following which he was executed by hanging in 1962.





Yehiel Dinur

A survivor of the holocaust named Yehiel Dinur came in as a witness at Eichmann's trial in 1961. When he walked into the court room, he collapsed, fainted, fell out onto the floor.



What is inside of us?

In 1983, a reporter, Mike Wallace, did a story on his trial and he interviewed Yehiel Dinur, and showed him the video clip of him collapsing onto the floor of the courtroom. He then asked him what went through his mind at that time? Was it hatred or fear? What caused him to collapse? He said, no, it was not fear or hatred. As soon as I saw him in person, at that moment I realized that he was not a monster nor was he a demon. He was just a normal guy, and if he is capable of doing something so wicked and evil, then so am I. He stated that there is an Adolf Eichman inside all of us.

Original sin

- Christianity teaches an idea called original sin. We were all born sinners.
- We are all broken, we are all a mess, everybody is a sinner, so we should no longer feel superior to anybody. Sin is in all of us equally.
- This doctrine offends many people. It says that something is terribly and horribly wrong with all of us, and only God can fix it.
- We were all born under judgment and condemnation, and we all have hope only by the grace of God, through Jesus Christ.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. ***Romans 5:12 NLT***

Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins. ***Ecclesiastes 7:20 NLT***

The junk in our hearts

The words of Jesus.

It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.

Mark 7:20-23 NLT

- This mess is in all of our hearts.
- It may be in seed form, but it is in there.
- If we can discover what is really inside of us, then we can turn to the Lord and ask Him to remove it and change us.

The serpent

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. ***Genesis 3:1 NKJV***

Obviously, Satan had already been kicked out of heaven and was given the authority as ruler of this world.

The words of Jesus.

And He said to them, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ***Luke 10:18 NKJV***

Fallen from heaven

Dragon, Serpent, Devil, Satan.

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ***Revelation 12:9 NKJV***

Satan is the ruler of this world.

And the devil said to Him, All this authority I will give You, and their glory; **for this has been delivered to me**, and I give it to whomever I wish. ***Luke 4:5-6 NKJV***

I will no longer talk much with you, for **the ruler of this world** is coming, and he has nothing in Me. ***John 14:30 NKJV***

Devil comes to steal, kill & destroy

Satan attacks us with; lies, temptations, accusations, slander and more.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. ***John 10:10 NKJV***

We are at war with Satan and his demons. Satan is real and he will try to steal your joy, kill your faith and destroy your life.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ***1 Peter 5:8 NKJV***

And do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:27 NIV



Why was the enemy in Paradise?

- The Bible identifies the "ancient serpent" as the Devil.
- God allowed this fallen spiritual being access to the Garden of Eden, to test humanity.
- Our life is a trust and a test.
- True Love Requires a Choice: If human beings had no option to disobey, their obedience to God would be mechanical. We are not puppets.
- For free will to exist, there had to be an alternative to God's command.
- God wants to give us a free will choice to see who and what we will love and trust.

The command

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Genesis 2:16 NKJV

- What was the great sin that ruined the human race? They ate of the tree that God commanded them not to eat of.
- What is so wrong with that? What is the big deal?
- It is not as if they killed someone, or stole something, or lied, or cursed or even took God's name in vain.
- They only ate from the wrong tree. Why was that so bad?

The tree

So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **Genesis 3:6 NKJV**

- God was saying to Adam and Eve, I am God, I created you, and your life is a gift from me to you, and the creation is a gift from me to you.
- I want you to live as if I am God, and I own you. You are living because of me and by my power.
- I want you to live as if the creation is mine, you are only to steward it.
- So, you can't live anyway you want. You are mine so you must obey me.
- Don't eat of that tree. You have a choice.
- Am I going to be your God or are you going to be your own god?

The big lie

Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. **Genesis 3:4-5 NKJV**

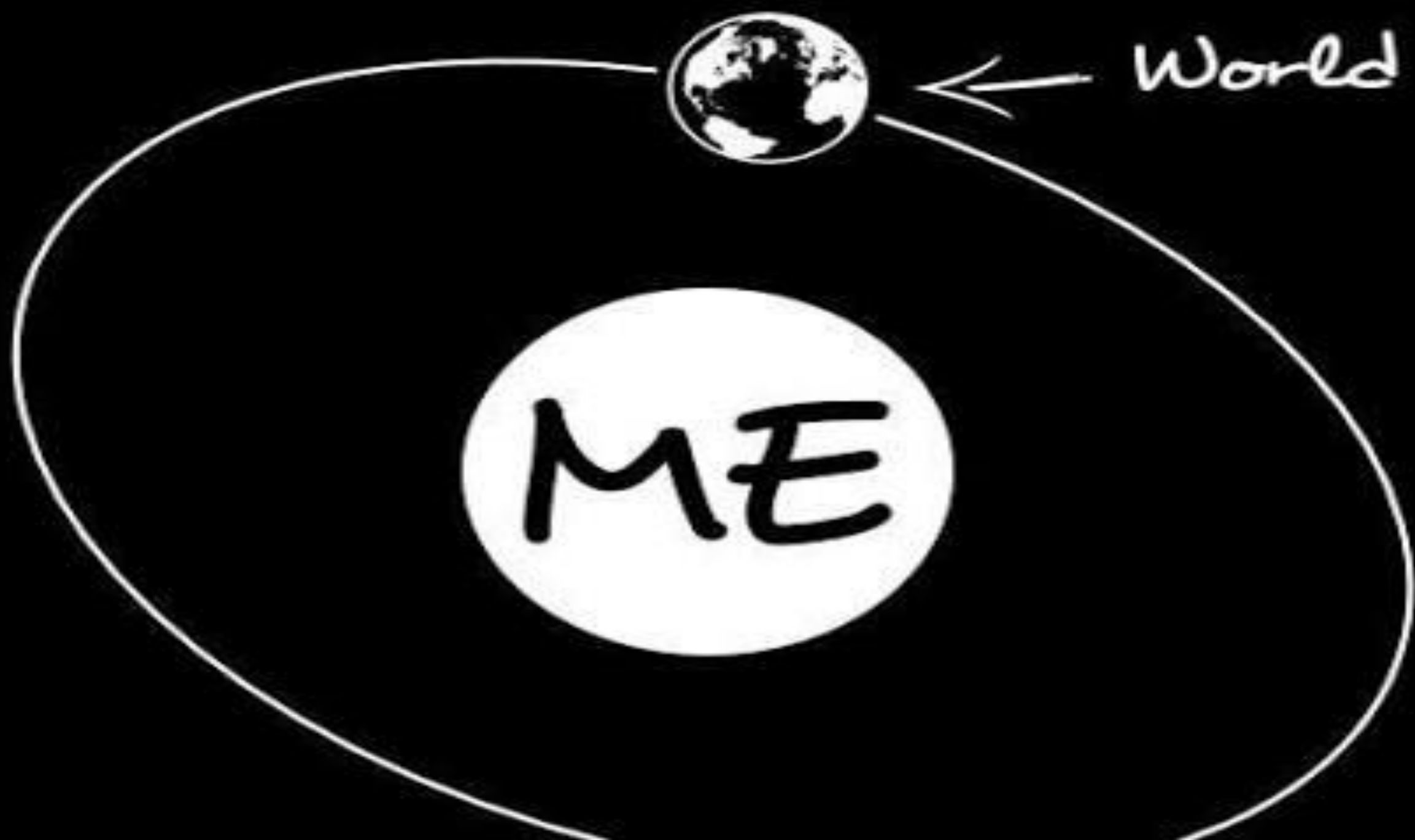
- This is a direct contradiction from what God said. What is the serpent doing?
- He is not attacking the existence of God, or the holiness of God.
- He is trying to assassinate Gods character.
- He is attacking the fact that God loves them, and God is good to them.
- God is saying, I love you and I will be good to you. I want you to obey me just because you love me and trust me. I want a loving relationship with you.
- The serpent says, you will not die, you will be like God.
- He is saying, you can't trust God, you can't trust His love for you, God is not good.
- If you obey God, he will keep you down, if you submit to God, you will miss out, you will not be happy, you will not thrive or succeed.

The big lie

- This is the big lie. This is in every human heart.
- The Bible says, I shouldn't sleep with this person, but my feelings and emotions tell me that it would be great, this would make me happy. Don't I deserve to be happy? I only want to be loved, is that so bad?
- The Bible says, I shouldn't spend all of this money on myself, I should be generous and give a lot of it away, but I want to spend it on myself. Didn't I work hard for this money, isn't it mine?
- These things would not even tempt you, if you had not already believed that you can't trust God.
- The enemy is saying, if you obey God, you will never be happy.
- Satan is trying to destroy our trust in the love and goodness of God.
- Some people try to control everything (control freaks), because they don't trust God enough to allow Him to control their lives, because they doubt whether or not He loves them.

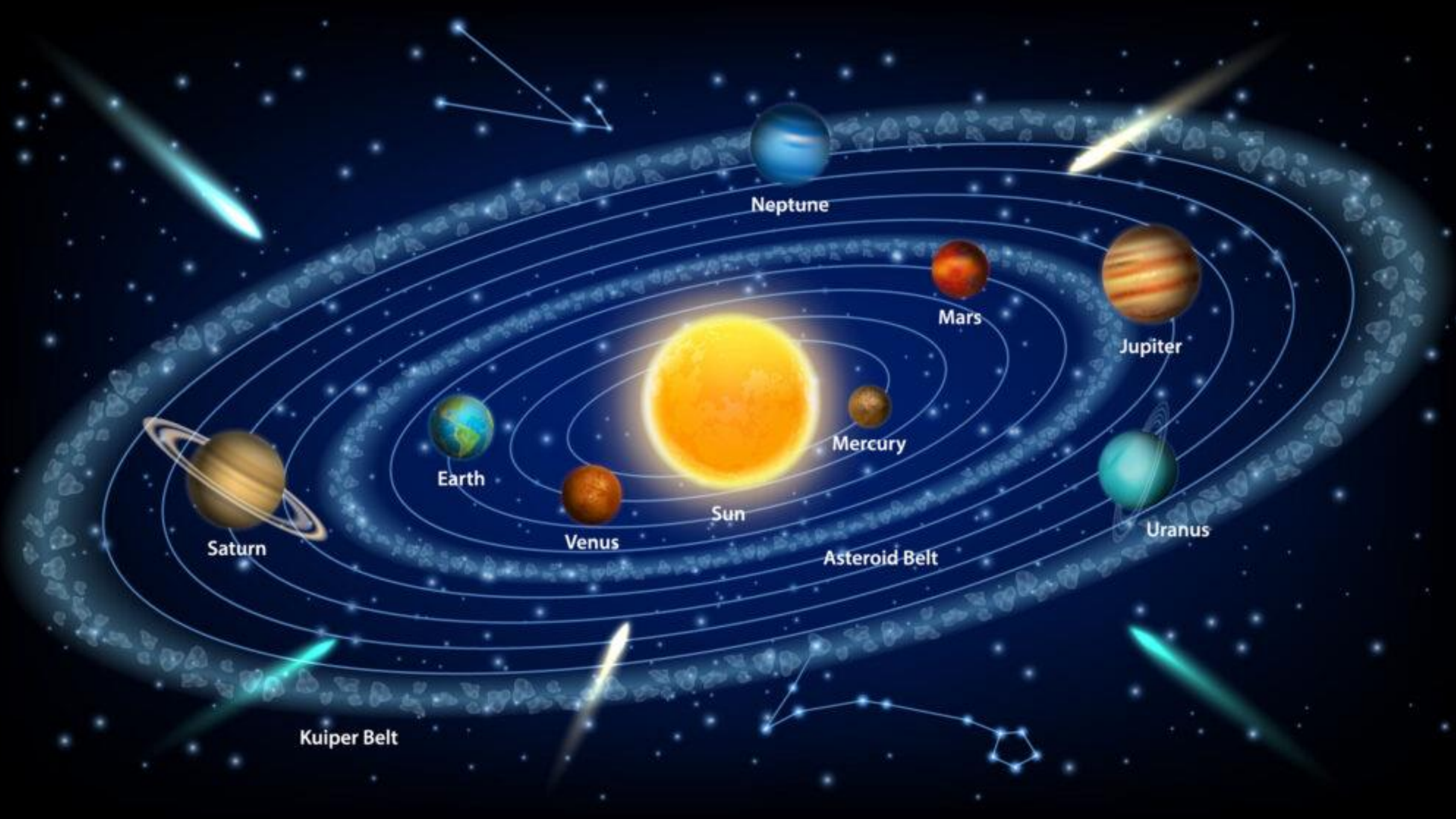
Self-centeredness

- People are worried and anxious. They think they must take life into their own hands, because they don't trust God to manage or control their life.
- Controlling people, worried people and anxious people are all playing god, they are all trying to be their own god.
- The serpent said, you will not die, and you will be like God.
- This is what we are all after, you will be like God.
- This is the essence of sin.
- We put ourselves in the center.
- We try to get everything and everyone to orbit or revolve around us.
- Sin is putting ourselves in the place of God.
- Sin is trying to make everything center around us, instead of God.



Self-centeredness

- Self-centeredness is the essence of sin; it is the main problem with humanity.
- I, me, my, mine.
- Most people have an “I” problem.
- People love others as long as they are revolving around them.
- When someone crosses you, how do you act?
- When someone offends you, what do you do?
- When someone puts you down, how do you respond?



Neptune

Mars

Jupiter

Mercury

Uranus

Sun

Earth

Venus

Saturn

Asteroid Belt

Kuiper Belt

Self-centeredness

- The thing inside of us that says, I have to prove myself, I have to be successful, or rich, or beautiful or be the best at what I do, to be loved and accepted.
- The thing inside of us that needs to lift ourselves up, exalt ourselves, or take the credit for something.
- The thing in us that wants to be admired, that wants to be known.
- We believed the serpent that we can't trust God, and His love, so we take our lives into our own hands. I will find happiness on my own.
- People put other people down, this makes them feel better about themselves, because they don't trust God, and they are self-centered.
- The sin of selfishness is a malignant tumor that destroys all of our relationships.
- Many people are so anxious, because they have an idea of how their life has to go, and they are afraid God isn't going to get it right. They think they know better than God. Really?

Religion

- Religion in general is fueled by self-centeredness. I obey my scriptures, I pray, I do good works, and I expect results, I expect blessings.
- People get mad at God when he doesn't answer their prayers. If you only obey God as long as He blesses you, you are trying to use God.
- Do you serve and obey God only because you want Him to bless you?
- We should obey simply because He is God, and we are not. We love Him and serve Him because we are grateful to Him.
- He owns us and therefore He should be the center of our lives.
- The essence of sin is putting yourself in the place of God.
- Self-centeredness.

The Kingdom of Self

Earl Jabay

1. **I am power** – Will-power is not the answer. (The more the fish struggles the deeper the hook gets embedded. The only hope for the fish is for the fisherman to remove the hook.)
2. **I am truth** – (The sin of certainty is pride. How can we possibly know everything?)
3. **I am right** – (These people sometimes struggle with making decisions, because they can't be wrong.)
4. **I am above time** – (They are always late, their schedule is all about themselves.)
5. **I am a messiah** – (They are always trying to save or rescue somebody. Preachers become cult leaders because of this.)
6. **I am the law** – (Whatever I think, or feel is right is right, concerning any issue. My laws can disagree with God's law, because I am the law.)
7. **I am perfect** – (Perfectionism is a common trait of the self-centered narcissist.)

What is a narcissist?

- The term originates from the Greek myth of Narcissus. He was a handsome hunter who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water and died because the love he felt was never returned to him.
- This term is broadly defined as a person who is excessively self-centered, possesses an inflated sense of self-importance, and exhibits a profound lack of empathy for others.
- A narcissist is prone to vanity, selfishness, and bragging. They can be loud, arrogant, extroverted and full of themselves. They have a constant need for praise, validation and attention. They can be manipulative. This is also called superior pride.
- They also can be shy, insecure and highly sensitive to criticism, this is called inferior pride. Both are a form of self-centeredness.
- All humans have some degree of this self-centeredness.

Fig leaves

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. **Genesis 3:7 NKJV**

- They realized they were naked, they felt ashamed. They were afraid, they covered in fig leaves. They were trying to be their own savior and lord.
- Fig leaves: you know something is wrong with you, you are desperate to cover yourself.
- We cover with religion, surely that will help me patch up a righteousness of my own.
- Others cover with career, or beauty, or anything to try to be acceptable.
- We desperately want others to accept us.
- They covered up their nakedness from each other. We cannot bear to let other people really know who we are.
- Fig leaves; we have to cover up, we think we have to control what other people think or know about us,

Hiders

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, *Where are you?*
Genesis 3:8-9 NKJV

- Where are you? He knows where they are.
- We are hiders. Go back and look over your entire life. Because we don't trust God, we hide from ourselves, we hide from each other, and we hide from God.
- We are running from the truth, running from God.
- While we hide, God seeks. It is God's nature to seek.
- Where are you? Does he really need to know this? No, he is counselling them, trying to get them to answer. He is so merciful.
- We hide, God seeks, if we ever find God it is because God found us.
- We hide from each other. I cannot bear to have you see all the way into me.
- They hid from God. If you get near a holy God, you will see how flawed you are.

The stain of sin

Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where *are* you? So he said, I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. And He said, Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat? Then the man said, The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. **Genesis 3:9-12 NKJV**

- The stain of sin. A metaphor for evil.
- Adam was basically saying, send Eve to hell, give me another wife.
- Because we have a sinful nature, people will throw others under the bus to justify themselves.
- Your life to enhance mine. I will hurt you so I can have what I want.
- The human stain of sin. The proneness of evil in the heart. This need to pull others down, so you can lift yourself up, or feel better about yourself. It is in everyone.
- The stain is self-righteousness. I feel better about myself, by putting you down.
- The man and the women are both are blame shifting, one is not more sinful than the other. Adam says it was Eve's fault. Eve said the devil made me do it.

The prophecy, the solution

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

Genesis 3:15 NKJV

- In Genesis 1-3, we read about the creation and the fall of mankind.
- The entire rest of the Bible is about how God restores mankind back to Himself.
- Here in Genesis 3:15 is the first prophecy about what God intends to do about the problem of sin.
- Some 4,000 years later, Eve's seed, Jesus Christ, will bruise the head or the authority of Satan by destroying sin and death at Calvary's cross, but He will get a fatal wound in the process as Satan bruises His heel.

A covering

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Genesis 3:21 NKJV

- After Adam and Eve's sin, God covered them with animal skins.
- Blood had to be shed. A life for a life.
- Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.
- God had to cover their naked bodies, because now they were sinners.
- What does it mean to be a Christian? You ask God to cover your sins because of what Jesus has done for you.
- You don't try to cover your sins with good works; it is not based on what you do.
- Ask God to cover you with the righteousness of Christ. Thank Him for forgiving and removing your sin.

Exiles

Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever—therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. **Genesis 3:22-24 NKJV**

- Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden.
- Now they would be homeless exiles for the rest of their lives on the earth.
- Homelessness is very difficult on people.
- There is nothing that makes you feel less human than homelessness.
- Because home is where you fit, where your needs are met and where you rest and are restored. It is the place of family, love, comfort and acceptance. People that do not have a home are missing all of that.
- We are all born as homeless exiles. This world is simply not our home.
- We are strangers and pilgrims just passing through.

Homelessness

He has also set eternity in the human heart; ***Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV***

- God has put eternity into our hearts, to always remind us that we are not home in his world.
- The entire human race is homeless.
- We are not made for this world. This world is not our home.
- My real home is where Jesus is, in paradise. A place where there is no more death, or pain, or sorrow or crying.
- We simply do not fit here in this world, we are mis-fits.
- I may be homeless, but I have been promised an eternal home and one day soon, I am going to my real home.

Jesus save me

- Does God have a plan and a way to remove the thing inside of us that wants to go its own way, that wants to take the place of God and be the center of our own life? Yes, He does.
- How do we get rid of the self-centeredness?
- How do we get rid of the stain of sin?
- How do we get rid of the darkness inside of our hearts?
- It all begins with asking Jesus to save us. Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved.
- Only Jesus can remove the sin and darkness from our hearts.
- You can't save yourself. We all need a savior.

Hymn

I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus,
Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true.
I would tell you how He changed my life completely;
He did something no other friend could do.

No one ever cared for me like Jesus;
There's no other friend so kind as He.
No one else could take the sin and darkness from me;
O how much He cared for me.

Jesus is the center

- The second thing we need to do is to simply make a choice to put God in the center of our hearts where He belongs.
- This is what it means to make Him the Lord of your life.
- I am not talking about salvation here.
- I am talking about making Him Lord or master.
- You are no longer the lord, the master, the boss of your life.
- Put Jesus in the center and begin to revolve around Him.
- Trust Him w/your life, trust Him to give you the best. Let Him manage your life.
- This is a choice and a surrender that you must make everyday for the rest of your life. Jesus you are my Lord today.
- Repent of playing God. My testimony.
- You can't compete with God for the center of your heart. That place is made only for God, and He wants you to revolve around Him.