

THE FALL OF MAN

Objective

To understand how Adam's fall mirrors our fall and how God works diligently at restoring us to Paradise.

References

The Book of Genesis

"The Divine Grace" by Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty, St. George Coptic Orthodox Church, Sporting, 1992 (in English).

Scriptural Verse

"Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him: Where are you?" Genesis 3:9

Lesson Guidelines

God Wants us to Show Him our Love

- God gave man a simple commandment:
"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 2:16-17)
- The commandment would not be forced upon him as a duty, but an opportunity to show love through obedience.
- Without the commandment, man would not have been able to exercise his freewill and reciprocate God's love as he should.
- We are faced with choices daily to show our love to God or to satisfy our own desires or the desire of others at God's expense.

Take Full Responsibility for Your Mistakes

- Adam disobeyed due to his love of woman.
- Eve disobeyed not because she was deceived but because of her evil desires.
- St. Didymus: "Those who are deceived do not recognize the evil except after the fact, because the desire conceals the truth from them".
- Therefore we must take complete responsibility of our actions and realize that we alone are accountable because of our desires.
- Let us not blame others for our sin, the way Adam and Eve did.

The Wage of Sin is Separation from God

- Along with the commandment, He made clear the price of disobedience: "**for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**" (Genesis 2:17)
- This is not divine vengeance, but the natural result of man's separation from God, the source of his life.
- God does not know sin and therefore it is impossible for Him to be present where there is sin, therefore our punishment is the absence of God which is a spiritual death.

God Visits us with His Grace and the Holy Spirit

- “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day” (Genesis 3:8)
- The “sound” is the Word of God.
- “Cool of the day” – is characterized by the blowing of the wind which represents the work of the Holy Spirit.
- God was searching for Adam: "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9)
- Once our sin removes us from the presence of God, He immediately starts searching for us.
- Even though we have made choices and have to bear the consequences, God does not forsake us. He lightens our burden and visits us with His Grace.
- The negative consequences are turned into blessings that bring us closer to God.
- Adam’s punishment was transformed into a blessing – Our redemption through the Lord Christ and the creation of the new Eve, the church.
- God gave us a greater paradise than that which was lost by shedding the Blood of the Incarnate Word of God: “Today you will be with Me in paradise” (Luke 23:43)

Conclusion

Daily make it a point to show your love to God. When you sin, take responsibility for your actions by confessing your sin. However, do not despair, remember that God is loving and compassionate and is seeking your salvation.

Discussion points

1. How can I show God my love daily?
2. What are ways I can examine my life daily to make sure I am taking full responsibility for my actions?