

LENT 1A - COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

- The difficulty with this story is that it is too familiar. We think we know what it says, and we think we know what it is about. How can we hear the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent in new ways?
- Note that what Eve reports to the serpent and what God says to Adam is slightly different, for Eve adds the line about the tree: “nor shall you touch it.” Does that addition make any difference?
- Who tempted Eve (and Adam)? The text **never** says it is the devil or Satan. In fact, the text assumes that it is not the devil, as it says that “the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal ***that the Lord God made***.” The writer tells us that the tempter is a part of God’s creation. Does this mean that tempting comes from God? Or that people at one time believed that tempting comes from God?
- Speaking of which, where is Adam during this episode? Note that the text says that Adam “was with her” – while she was talking to the serpent!
- Why is it that the first thing that Adam and Eve notice when they eat the fruit is that “they knew that they were naked”?
- Based on what happened to Adam and Eve, what did God mean by saying, “for in the day that you eat of it you shall die”?

Psalm 32

- Note that the psalm recognizes that God’s forgiveness comes freely to those who repent of their sin – this is written centuries before Jesus!!
- Note the physical nature of sin and guilt portrayed in the psalm: “While I held my tongue, my bones withered away My moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.” Holding on to our guilt and sin eats away at us.

Romans 5:12-19

- In one way, Paul understands Jesus to be a “new Adam.” Adam begins a humanity defined by condemnation and death. Jesus begins a humanity defined by justification and grace and life. If we consider the two as paradigms or examples for us, then we are challenged or asked how will we be defined. Will we live by the ways of condemnation and death – the way of Adam? Or will we live by the ways of justification and grace and life – the way of Jesus?

Matthew 4:1-11

- If we consider the temptations of Jesus as temptations that affect the body of Christ (i.e., US!), then we have three temptations that face us: the temptation of emphasizing only the physical needs to the neglect of the spiritual, the temptation to despair, and the temptation of power and influence. Which temptation do you see affecting the church the most? Is there a temptation that you find yourself struggling with?
- Note that when faced by temptation, Jesus responds with Scripture. He is grounded by Scripture. We have here then a visual reminder of our need to be grounded in God’s Word.