

Meditations for your week

How is my sin a lack of gratitude toward God? How would giving thanks to God help me to combat my sin? When am I the victim, and when is my sin the cause, and how do I know the difference? How willing and able am I to confess my sin?

To what temptations am I particularly vulnerable? What about my inner being is fertile ground for temptation? How can I increase my inner strength to live righteously? When have my desires gotten the better of me and gotten me in trouble?

What relationships do I have that could be mended with an admission of guilt and an "I'm sorry"? What is my purpose, how has my sin kept me from fulfilling my purpose, and how can I return to the purpose for which God designed me?

What would Jesus notice about my inner being? How closely have I guarded my heart, and how can I improve its security? What does Jesus strengthen me to do, and how can I better tap into that strength from the inside out?



Sermon Notes
January 10, 2021

*"Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it." —Proverbs 4:23*

The Process – Genesis 3-11

After the beautiful description of the Garden

and intimacy with the Creator,

the natural question is—"What went wrong?"

What do we learn about sin?

There is a snake, but the problem is inside us.

Our choice begins to spiral out of control.

It causes deception, fractures relationships, and
violates purpose.

Jesus is Lord of the heart.

He sees people's inner workings.

He claims authority over the spirit.

He equips the heart for righteousness.

Group Discussion Questions

Open

When have you done something that you felt manipulated to do? Looking back on it, how would you have changed what you did?

Dig and Reflect

1. Read Genesis 3. How does the serpent challenge the woman's knowledge and impression of God? What should have kept her from listening to the serpent?
2. What is the whole process of how sin grew in the woman and man? How could the process have been stopped at any step along the way? At what point was it too late? Where is the best place for us to fight against sin? Where is the worst place?
3. What is wrong with knowing right and wrong and having one's eyes opened? Why is this negative in the story when we would normally want this knowledge? What does this say about the knowledge that we should be striving to obtain?
4. What are all the consequences of the man and woman's sin? How do you see these consequences still happening today? How can forgiveness reverse these consequences?
5. Why does God punish them so severely? What does God do to try and hold on to them?
6. What are the most valuable lessons about sin that we could learn from this story? How have you been challenged in your view of and connection to sin?