

Catholic Scripture Study Circle: *Living the Kerygma*

Week 3 (January 29, 2026): CAPTURED – What the Hell Happened?

Theme: What Went Wrong?

Scripture: Genesis 3; Romans 3:23

NOTES:

- ***** SCHEDULE CHANGES *****

- Week 5: February 19 – TOWN HALL => **MOVED TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16th**
- Week 8: March 12 – Dcn Steve is OOT => **MOVED TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11th**
- SAME START TIME: 7 PM

- **Opening Prayer:** Spontaneous and Personal (*volunteer*)
- **Review (from Week 2)**
 - How to “look at” (read, study) Scripture.
 - Begin in prayer
 - Be mindful when reading - the Bible is written in different genres
 - Be aware of the “senses” in Scripture
 - Literal
 - Spiritual
 - Allegorical – foreshadowing
 - Moral – teaching
 - Anagogical – revealing or “revelation”
 - Religion and Science are complimentary
 - Keep in mind that God is the author of Scripture.. inspired!
 - God chose men, their abilities, intellect, reasoning to write.
 - There’s room for us to “discover” God
 - Scripture needs to be “carefully investigated”
 - Created, Captured, Rescued, Response – CCRR (easier to remember)
 - Genesis Chapters 1 & 2 – helps understand God; where we come from
 - Genesis is poetic and has all Scripture senses
 - What about us? Where do our existence fit in?
 - **#1:** we are meant to represent God on earth
 - **#2:** we are to exercise dominion over the earth
 - **#3:** we have the ability to reason
 - **#4:** we have capacity for freedom (can be misunderstood)
 - **#5:** Gen 1:27 Male and Female God Created Them
 - **#6:** Gen 1:29 – God gives man “food”
 - We are created to “receive”
 - God “rested” on the 7th day – Important!
 - Grandeur and Reckless Love of God
 - God created ALL, and He created us and knows us by name
 - Out of love, for love; you we matter to Him, the Almighty
 - What does “reckless” means?
 - Give us everything; “Free Will” and “Freedom”
 - Taking a chance on us
- **INTRODUCTION (for Week 3)**

- Breadth, Depth, Height of our FAITH, ex. more to Genesis than covered
- More to our Catholic Faith and Religion than anyone can understand
- Kerygma – tied our faith together, especially missionary disciples
- Again, Kerygma is about proclaiming the Gospel...
 - ...not just proclaiming, but sharing
 - ...sharing God’s story so people know the “WHY”
 - ...telling story with conviction, with excitement, with joy!
 - Bottom line: evangelization, discipleship, salvation!

- **CAPTURED**

- In the last session: Awesome Creation; Grandeur of God; His Incredible and Reckless Love
- God’s highest creation – human; Imagine living in the Garden of Eden
 - No illness, diseases, death, anxiety, worry, depression, etc.
 - We are meant to be immortal; we are meant to live forever
 - Talking/Walking/Laughing with God
 - Everything was good, for human – very good!
 - Perfect Harmony. Created us with four perfect harmony.
 - 1) Harmony with God, Himself – union with God
 - 2) Harmony between man and woman
 - 3) Harmony with Creation
 - 4) Harmony within ourselves, our souls – intellect, will, passion
- We existed for one purpose – CCC 294:
 - Glory of God is for man to be **FULLY ALIVE**.
- SO, WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

- **What the Hell happened indeed? – IDENTITY**

- So, if God is omnipotent, creation is all good, we are created all good, then what really did happen?
 - How did we go from perfect to captured?
 - Captured -> why is everything messed up? -> sin & consequences
 - Possibilities:
 - 1) God messed up – Contrary to reason
 - 2) God is not in control – Contrary to reason
 - 3) Something else?
- To really understand what happened and why everything is a mess, we need to know our adversary, the Enemy, the devil.
- Scripture is like a game film – to know about our adversary/Enemy [Read *Gen 3 : 1-7*]
 - Get to know this Enemy – Identity, Name, Reason/Purpose
 - Next week: focus on his Strategy, Tactics, Goal for us
- Let’s start with the **Identity** of this Enemy
- Going back to everything God created is good – us? Others? Devil?
- Highest beings are the angels
 - Angels are magnificent and splendor creatures
 - High intellectual, pure, spiritual beings – not bound by space/time
 - Also, given free will and reason – just like us human
- Among the highest angels is an angel named Lucifer; “light bearer” or “morning star”
 - One of the, if not, the greatest of angels
 - Angelic creatures; powerful; can’t go against them
 - What went wrong? [*CCC 391*] – known as the “fallen” angel
 - Why? Because Lucifer was envy at who (??).

- Lucifer is envy at God: maybe His Grandeur, Creation, Power, Love
- Lucifer – through his envy decided not to serve God; he rebelled – fallen
- Jesus: I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning from the sky
- What happen to Satan?
 - [*Read John 12:31*] “ruler of this world”
 - [*Ephesians 2:2*] – “prince of the power of the air”
 - [*1 Peter 5:8*] – “devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some on to devour”
 - [*1 John 5:19*] – “the whole world is in the power of the evil one”
 - [*Revelation 12:9*] – “the deceiver of the whole world”
 - One other thing: Satan is compared to a snake [*Read Gen 3:1*]
- Satan is indeed powerful, very envious, and with a vicious vengeance
- ..but..... Scripture reminds us that he is just a creature
 - Just another creature God created. Power is limited.
 - Satan is not God. He is not God’s equal or his rival on the same level.
- Question: why doesn’t God just annihilate Satan and be done with it?

- **What the Hell happened indeed? – NAME**
 - In Scripture, names can reveal a lot about a person’s character / mission
 - Lucifer – “light bearer”
 - After Lucifer’s rebellion, he has two primary names:
 - “Satan” – “the accuser”
 - “Devil” – “the divider”
 - More next week: strategy, tactics, goals (for us)

- **What the Hell happened indeed? – REASON FOR REBELLING**
 - Why this creature, created out of love and goodness, rebel?
 - We may think it’s “pride”; but, “pride” is his sin.
 - But motive for rebelling is not pride but ENVY.
 - [*Read Wisdom 2:24*] – “through the devil’s envy death entered..”
 - Different between “jealousy” and “envy”
 - Jealousy: fear of losing something you may or may not possess
 - Envy: desire what other has and wishing or wanting them not to have it either
 - Capital Sin – deadly
 - WHO IS THE ENEMY (the DEVIL) ENVIIOUS OF? GOD or US?
 - It is us – you and me! .. which means he hates us.
 - Why hate us so much that he would rebel against God?
 - Because he sees his role in God’s plan for him and for us, humans
 - He would be called to serve human beings, creatures that are far less power, knowledge, and less excellence than himself
 - He is envious of the good that is coming to us and resented God
 - He perceives that as an insult and degrading to serve us
 - So, he set out to destroy God’s plans for us and ...
 - .. CAPTURE us and enslave us to serve him.. to degrade us.
 - The devil and his minions are the real enemy, not you or I or anyone else on this earth.
 - When we say the “devil and his minions”, who are they and how many of them are there ??
 - The Devil convinced and invited other angels to join him
 - [*Revelation 12:4*] “...swept down a **third** of the stars of heaven..”
 - How many is a “third” of the angels?
 - Matthew 26:53 – Jesus said more than 12 legions of angels
 - Roman days – legion is about 6,000 soldiers = 72,000 angels

- But consider, at minimum, there is a guarding angel for each person from birth to death... Earth ~ 8 billion people!
 - “12” in Scripture symbolizes complete, perfect
 - God created as many angels as complete and perfect number
 - Satan is the primary devil. But there is a LOT more than we realized.
- **What the Hell happened? – RECAP**
 - What happened from perfect CREATION to being CAPTURED?
 - We see that there is an Enemy who is causing a mess out of God’s creation.
 - WHY? Because of envy... primarily envy at us!
 - Understand our “Enemy” – the Devil
 - Know his Identity
 - Know his Names
 - Know the Reasons why he Rebel
 - To put it mildly and bluntly – the devil hates our guts!
 - [Revelation 12:12] – “...come down to you in great wrath...”
 - This is more than just an “argument”.
 - This is more than just a “resentment”.
 - This is more than just an “argument”.
 - This is hatred.. it’s pure evil.
 - We are at war – spiritual warfare!
 - The devil has brought the fight to us, to every single one of us.
 - But have hope, we are not alone. Someone incredible is with us!
 - Next week: dive a bit more into CAPTURED to really understand the state of our condition by knowing **how** the enemy is bringing the fight to us.
 - Root strategy, Tactics, Goals for each one of us
 - Pray a decade of the Rosary!
 - Homework: pray a decade of the rosary each day – ask for the grace to be aware and resist the devil.