

Catholic Scripture Study Circle: *Living the Kerygma*

Week 4 (February 5, 2026): CAPTURED – The Enemy (Part II)

Theme: The Fall—What Went Wrong?

Scripture: Genesis 3

NOTES:

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

- Week 5: February 19 – TOWN HALL → moved to February 16th (Monday)

- Week 8: March 12 – OOT → moved to March 11th (Wednesday)

- **Opening Prayer:** Spontaneous and Personal (*volunteer*)

- **Offering a Few Words on the Purpose of the Kerygma**

- The Kerygma has always been the core, basic message of the Gospel

- Problems of the world; Personal struggles; Lost our ways

- Not understanding the Faith; Struggling or Leaving the Faith

- What they need? They need to be reminded of the Kerygma, the basic and core message of the Gospel

- The Gospel is explosive! Put on Spiritual lenses.

- You (and I) are born for this!

- Here we focus on the Kerygma, but there is SO much more to the Faith...

- **Review (from Week 3)**

- **CREATED:**

- Creation – One God, All powerful; ALL LOVING

- Creation – Everything; humans (man and woman); Harmony

- Glory of God is for man to be FULLY ALIVE!

- Reckless Love (?): Free Will, Freedom, Capacity to love

- Something happened...

- **CAPTURED (PART I):**

- An Enemy – wrecking everything

- Identity: an angel; magnificent, splendor, powerful

- Name: Lucifer, Satan (accuser), Devil (divider)

- Reason: Envy

- Jealous at God; pride in himself

- Envy at us / human race

- Hates us

- 1/3 of the angels fell

- Whether we like it or not, the Devil and his minions are bringing the war to us.

- They are spiritual beings. They do NOT sleep.

- He doesn't want to kill us.

- He wants to "capture" and enslaves us.. to serve him rather than God.

- Satan and his devils are the real enemies, not anyone especially not God

- **CAPTURED (PART II): ROOT STRATEGY**

- Root Strategy (*Read Genesis 3 : 1–7*)
 - Satan has only **one** root strategy!
 - Run this root strategy over and over and over starting with our first parents – Adam & Eve – all the way down to now with all of us...
 - ... and he runs this play very successfully – with all of us!
 - Strategy: **“we can’t trust God”** (tells us over, over, over again)
 - God is the “real” adversary
 - God doesn’t care about us
 - We’d be happier without Him
 - At the heart of Satan’s strategy: *Gen 3:4-5*
 - Pope St. John Paul II – “falsify” God
- Tree of knowledge of good and evil (*Gen 3:1-3*)
 - Why did God tell Adam & Eve not to eat the of the fruits of the tree of K of G & E?
 - You “eat” it; you “own” it; you become the “master” of it
 - We, God’s creatures, eat the fruits of the tree of K of G & E =>
 - We own it => become the master =>
 - ...have the right to determine what is good, what is evil.
 - ...we become God, and so we don’t need God...
 - ...we cut ourselves off from God,
 - But God creates us, gives us life, and sustains us...
 - ...we cut off from God and the result => we will die
 - Key word: TRUST.... God wants us to trust Him.
 - Satan wants us to wonder about God’s trustworthiness.
 - Satan “accuses” God to us that He’s not all that good.
 - Satan “divides” God and us.
 - Satan was able to manipulate and convince our first parents
- What about us? What about you and me?
 - If Satan can do this to Adam & Eve, he can certainly do to us
 - Don’t underestimate the Enemy.. for examples:
 - Natural disasters; Pandemic; War and World conflicts...
 - Politics; Media; Entertainment; Technology...
 - Consumerism; Poverty; Abortion; Trafficking...
 - Homeless; Abuse; Gender Identity; Divorce...
 - Illnesses; Loss of a loved ones; Struggling marriages...
 - Physical and Mental wellness; Loss of / struggling faith...
 - Unanswered prayers; Ministry; Internal struggles; Sins...
 - Don’t you hear the Enemy’s voice saying to us:
 - Where’s God? I thought He is a good God.
 - You can’t hear Him. He’s silent.
 - YOU – CAN’T – TRUST – HIM!

- Maybe, just maybe, you'll be better off without God
- Take others with you. You can do it all by yourself.
- This is Satan's root lie... This is his root strategy, always has been.
- If it works the first time, it'll work again. It's repeatable. (*Gen 3*)

- **CAPTURED (PART II): TACTICS**

- The devil uses many, many tactics.
- Highlight the six (6) that are most effective that the devil uses.
- He "accuses"
 - He accused God.
 - He accused you (me).
 - He accused others, especially those closest to you (me).
- He "lies"
 - You are worthless. You don't matter. No one cares about you.
 - You are not loved... will never be loved.
- He "divides"
 - Repeatedly listening to the lies... starting to believe them.
 - Once believe them, afraid to enter into relationship / friendship
 - Objective: keep you alone, keep us separated
- He "flatters"
 - Flattery does not honoring another person
 - Flattery is saying something to get something out of the other
 - Flattery in honoring another person is to reaffirm them the goodness that is in them.
 - Enemy twists that "goodness" in his flattery.. something like this
 - "You've gone through so much, endured so much, suffered so much.. you know, you probably entitled to _____."
- He "tempts"
 - Pretty obvious what this is
 - We all understand temptation
 - Temptation is different but very specific to a person
- He "discourages"
 - Discourages at the world, the Church, government, at ourselves
 - Want to bring us down into "despair" ... no one can help me.
- Remember: these are the devil's tactics
 - They come in waves, and repeatedly
 - Satan is a fallen angel, pure intellect; He does not sleep
 - Satan is still a creature. He is not God. He can't physically harm us

- **CAPTURED (PART II): SATAN'S GOAL FOR YOUR LIFE**

- Simple Goal: to steal, "kill", and destroy us – our souls
 - This is personal. He knows about your life.
 - He has thousands of years of human history. He knows what works

- Sin: CCC 1850
 - Consequence of sin is the separation from God!
 - We exist either in the hands of God, or exist in some other being's hands.
 - Don't just hang out in a spiritual neutral zone, like spiritual Switzerland....
Waiting to choose later.
 - Separate from God.. "dying" from eternal life vs eternal damnation
 - This place with Satan is called Hell
- Death: CCC 1006 – 1009
 - Death is not just something that happens to us
 - Death is the end of earthly life
 - Death is a consequence of sin
 - Death is the "last enemy" of humanity
 - There is a final judgement
- Sin and Death are reality
 - They have powers: they have dominion and they rule on this earth
 - They are powerful and they have a tight grip on us.
 - (Roman 5:14) – Death reigned
 - (Roman 3:9) – All are under the power of sin
 - "S"in and "D"eath have powers in and of themselves
 - They have authority over the human race
- We are all born under the dominion of Sin and Death, which are all under Satan's power
 - Need Baptism; Some say why need baptism??
 - Free from Original Sin
 - God's claim as his child, and adopt into God's family
 - Anointing – oil of salvation, meaning grace of the Holy Spirit
- Final words:
 - Satan, Devil, Sin, Death – this is bad news; VERY bad news, worst
 - Captured and enslaved – forever; ex. like trafficking
 - Need to be rescued
 - Need someone to break us out of this prison
 - Spoiler: Guess who that will be?
 - Kerygma – Gospel is the good news; explosive news

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Do I believe that there really is an enemy who has a plan to ruin my life?**
- 2) How do I see Satan differently after this session tonight?**
- 3) How do I view the fall of Adam and Eve after tonight's session?**
- 4) What lies and accusations has the enemy spoken into my life?**
- 5) Ask Jesus to expose the lies, accusations, and divisions that the enemy has used or is using to wreck your life.**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Where is the enemy accusing me right now?

What lie is crippling me right now?

Where is he causing divisions in my life?

Where is he flattering my ego and my self-worth?

What temptation is strongest in my life?

Where am I most discouraged right now?