

# The first example of selfishness

## Gen 3:2-6 (NIV)

The woman said to the serpent, We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'

"You will surely not die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

# Eve's motivation

What made Eve eat the fruit:

- She could not have been hungry (plenty of trees)
- She was deceived by the father of lies – Satan
- It became all about her and what she wanted
- She wanted to 'be like God'

This often happens to us on a daily basis to.  
Satan tells us a lie and we start believing it...

It becomes all about ME, MYSELF and I.

# Selfishness = Jealousy

## Gen 4:3-8 (NIV)

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor, and his face was downcast.

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

# Cain's motivation

What made Cain kill his brother:

- He only gave SOME of his fruit to God
- He was jealous of Abel (his younger brother)
- He also wanted God's favor
- He was selfish and it became all about HIM
- That lead to sin – Murder!!!

Selfishness will almost always lead to SIN!!

“I” is in the center of SIN...

When it becomes all about me, myself and I...

# Selfish from birth...(cont)

How do we become selfish?

- We are born with a sinful nature
- Babies cry and they get what they want
- Toddlers and tantrums...
- We get use to getting our own way
- We become the “God” in our own life

It becomes all about ME, MYSELF and I.

# Our selfish nature

## Acts of selfishness?

- Being too busy for God (quiet times, cell groups)
- Its always about me - at work, home and even church
- What would others think about ME? (altar call)
- Worship was too long for **me**
- I did not know any of the songs
- I skipped church because I did not feel like going
- I did not “feel” the anointing in church
- The sermon was too long / boring
- Its all about me, me, me, me...

# It happens to the best

## Mark 14:27-31

“You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “today – yes, tonight – before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

# It happens to the best (cont)

## Mark 14:27-31

But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

## We all know what happened...

Mark 14:66-72 – Peter disowned Jesus three times.

- Selfishness took control
- It became all about HIMSELF



# Inspirational examples

## Daniel 3:1-30

King Nebuchadnezzar – built gold image

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego

Thrown into a blazing hot fire

## What could they lose...

- Their lives!!!
- It did not matter to them
- They put God first and not themselves
- What would we have done?

**GOD ALWAYS COMES THROUGH FOR US!!**



# Inspirational examples (cont)

## Daniel 6:1-28

King Nebuchadnezzar – people not allowed to pray to God

Daniel still prayed

Thrown into a den of lions

## What could he lose...

- His life!!!
- It did not matter to him
- He put God first and not himself
- What would we have done?

**GOD ALWAYS COMES THROUGH FOR US!!**



# The ultimate example...

## Matthew 6:36-39

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

# The ultimate example...(cont)

## Matthew 6:42

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

## Do you think Jesus “FELT like” being crucified???

- He knew exactly what was waiting for Him
- He was scared and overwhelmed
- He was only thinking of YOU and me
- Unselfish act of LOVE
- God sacrificed His only Son for us

HE WAS THINKING OF YOU AND ME!!!



# Good news...

Gal. 5:19-24

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like...

22:But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

24:Those who belongs to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

# Good news...(cont)

Romans 8:1-4

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of Life set me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

# Good news...(cont)

**Gal. 2:20 (NIV)**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**John 8:36 (NIV)**

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



# Questions

- ◆ **Possible questions:**
  - ◆ Do you think you are selfish?
  - ◆ Identify certain areas where you can become less selfish?
  - ◆ How can we allow God to be in charge of our lives?
  - ◆ What can we learn from Jesus and His attitude?
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