

## **Kerygma Series #2: Captured Homily Outline**

### **The 4 dimensions of the Gospel Message (Kerygma):**

1) Created, 2) Captured, 3) Rescued, 4) Response

### ***Captured: What the hell happened?***

#### **1. The unsatisfactory answers from the world**

- God is not all-powerful, God is not all-good. God doesn't exist.
- So create your own brief "happiness" through power, money/status or pleasure

#### **2. Sacred Scripture as Game Film for a Football Team**

#### **3. Who is our enemy and why did he fall?**

Angelic creatures became demonic

Lucifer meaning "The Bearer of Light" becomes

- Satan (Hebrew) = "The Adversary", "The Accuser", "The Evil One"
- Devil (Greek) = "The Divider" or "The One who scatters"

Irrational motive: envy of us

#### **4. Satan's Basic Play:**

**Introduce doubt in God's goodness (to corrupt our image of God)**

*"You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil."*

**Encourage an alternative to following God's law (to exercise our freewill to commit evil)**

*"I will decide for myself what is good and evil."*

**Spring trap which enslaves, degrades and destroys**

*"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves."*

He runs this same play again and again for every human being of any time and place. All of us are born into this broken relationship with God and this enslavement to Satan.

## **5. The Result: Enslavement to Satan and the Powers of Sin and Death**

**Powers** = authorities, government, kingdom, reign. I have been handed over to powers I cannot compete with. I'm enslaved to a creature who *hates* me, who seeks to defile, degrade and destroy me, and I'm *powerless* against him.

*"I do not understand my own actions. For I do. Not do what I want, but do the very thing I hate.... For I do not do. The good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do. It, but sin which dwells within me" (Rom. 7:15, 19-20).*

The world is not neutral. *Either* one lives in service to sin and remains in spiritual bondage, *or* one lives in obedience to God and enjoys liberation from sin's captivity. There is no third option. Image of human trafficking.

### **Key takeaways to ponder, to pray over and to share:**

- Sacred Scripture is a "game film" which equips us for what happened and what will always happen.
- God is all-good, but one of the creatures He made chose to rebel against God and us. That creature is the enemy, Satan.
- Satan, or the devil, is not an equal rival of God. He is a mere creature.
- The enemy's motive for rebellion was envy of the human race. He hates us and has declared war on us.
- His strategy is to convince us that God is not our loving Father and that we can be happy without God.
- Because of Adam and Eve's free choice to believe and act on Satan's lies (the Fall), we are bound by the powers of Sin and Death. The material world, of which human beings were the lords and stewards, is corrupted as well (natural disasters).
- To realize the hopelessness of our condition is a grace: We are captured and are in need of rescue. I need a Savior.
- Our hopeless captivity is not the end of the story. God will do something about it.

### **Video to watch on YouTube:**

Fr. John Riccardo. "Captured: What the hell happened?"

### **Deeper dive in reading:**

Fr. John Riccardo. *Rescued: The Unexpected and Extraordinary News of the Gospel*, Chapters 5-8.