

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 9/21/2020-9/25/2020

The following content is based on the message on 9/20/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // EVIL EXISTS

Read Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17. Approximately, 90% of people believe in some sort of god. Only about 55% believe in an evil antagonist (like Satan). Genesis tells us that before humanity existed, evil was already present. Evil has been at work since before we even existed. God gave Adam and Eve one command—not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This tree wasn't the tree of good and evil, it was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God didn't want us to eat of this tree and gain the knowledge of evil. Evil has been around a lot longer than we have. As we will see later in the week, we weren't made to deal with evil, but we have a Savior who equips us to withstand it.

Even before humans sinned, evil existed.

- *If we don't acknowledge the evil in us, then we will never seek a cure for that evil. How do you need to acknowledge the effects of evil in your life right now?*
- *Knowing that evil is at work within you, sit in silence for two minutes to let God speak to you.*

TUESDAY // WHERE DID EVIL COME FROM?

Read Ezekiel 28:11-16. If evil existed before humanity, then where did it come from? Multiple accounts in scripture reveal that there was this fallen angel, which we understand to be Satan. He and his demons have a mission to see humanity fall. This fallen Satan's primary target is us. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us that Satan is roaming around seeking whom he may devour. Satan wants to take as many people down with him as he can.

Satan wants to destroy humanity because we remind him of God.

- *Part of Satan's fall from his holy position was his pride. Why does it make sense to you that Satan wants to bring humanity down with him?*
- *How do Satan's motives make you view sin differently?*
- *Sit in silence for two minutes to let God speak to you.*

WEDNESDAY // NO LIFE OUTSIDE OF GOD

Read Genesis 3:1-5. As we have seen, evil is real and it existed before humanity. Genesis shows us that God didn't want us to have the knowledge of evil because we were not equipped to deal with evil. God the Father was trying to protect us as a good

father should do. We were created as God's children and He wants to protect us from evil. However, Satan wants to destroy humanity so he deceived Adam and Eve by telling them lies wrapped up in truth. Ultimately, Satan convinced Adam and Eve that life can be found outside of God.

Life can only be found in God.

- *In what ways are you tempted to try to find life outside of God?*
- *Reflect on how God is the source of all things life-giving. Sit in silence for two minutes to let this truth about God speak to you.*

THURSDAY // EVIL EXPOSES AND SHAMES

Read Genesis 3:6-11. Genesis goes on to say that Adam and Eve's eyes were opened and they knew that they were naked. They felt their nakedness because they felt vulnerable. As soon as they sinned, they felt shame come upon them and then they tried to cover it up. But that didn't take the shame away, so then they pushed the blame elsewhere—blaming God and others. Sin causes us to feel shame, to attempt to tame sin, and then to blame others.

Sin causes us to shame, tame, and blame.

- *Look at the ways that sin causes you to shame, tame, and blame. How has that played out in your life this week?*
- *Knowing that you are safe with God, share with Him how you are being convicted of sin. Sit in silence for two minutes to let God speak to you.*

FRIDAY // LOVE COVERS AND PROTECTS

Read Ephesians 6:10-12. We, by ourselves, are not capable of withstanding evil. To persevere against the transcendence of evil requires the transcendent protection of God. God wants us to know that if we love Him, then we don't have to hide from Him. God's love covers you and protects you. When we experience the love of God, then we are able to give that love away to others. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

We will feel the shame of sin, attempt to tame our sin, and continue to blame others for our sin forever unless and until we let Jesus take our shame, our attempts to tame, and our desire to blame.

- *What does it say about you that Jesus wants to take the shame of your sin from you?*
- *Sit in silence for two minutes to speak to you about the relationship between Jesus' love and your shame.*