



Beauty & Brokenness

Ephesians 1:3-11; Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17 | March 6th - 12th, 2016

Warm Up: On Sunday it was said, *“When you and I begin to see that our lives are primarily about God and not us, we begin to see the meaning and purpose of our own lives.”* In what ways have you experienced this to be true? Why is it so disruptive to put ourselves as the hero of our stories?

- ❖ Read **Ephesians 1:3-11** aloud. What resonates most deeply with you in these verses? Why?
 - The first three verses speak of God making a plan before the world began. He set out to accomplish this plan from a place of ‘great pleasure.’ How does this speak to your heart personally?
 - God loved us before we had a chance to do anything, either good or bad. This means we have a Father who loves us...regardless! What difference does this make to you? Explain.
- ❖ Eve was created out of Adam and Adam was created out of dust. This means that everyone ultimately goes back to Adam. Romans says that when Adam sinned, everyone sinned. We are all sinners by nature and choice.
 - How does this explain the problems we see in the world today?
 - From **Ephesians 2:3** and **Romans 5:12**, how would you explain the nature of sin to someone who believes that God simply set us up for failure, and then punished us for the disobedience of Adam and Eve? (See also **Psalm 51:5**)
- ❖ Discuss the following quote: *“Beware, Satan is like a fisherman, he baits the hook according to the appetite of the fish. He used pride to catch Adam and Eve. He lured them into believing that life would get better for them in disobedience to God’s word.”*
 - Satan will use whatever bait necessary to lure people away from the Truth. It’s been said that in order to withstand Satan’s schemes we need to understand sin’s **SOURCE**, sin’s **FORCE**, and sin’s **COURSE**. How does **James 1:13-15** address this progression?
 - What about this passage in **James** speaks most to you as you consider the daily spiritual warfare you are engaged in?

Wrap Up: Consider where you feel most broken today. Spend a minute or two in silence. Allow the Lord to minister His *grace*, His *forgiveness*, and His *loyal love* to you. After a few moments, simply go around and offer the Lord one sentence prayers of response. Things like, “Father, I praise you for your patience with me.” (and/or whatever else the Lord may put on your heart!) Have someone close in prayer after a few minutes of this.