

Sermon Title: The Duracell Tree

Presented Friday night Sept 28, 2001

Aim: To show the distinction between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan and most clearly reveal that Satan's kingdom is build around the false belief of inherent power for every created being.

Theme: The kingdom of God is a kingdom of loving family relationships and grounded in the love of our heavenly Father. Satan broke away from the Father, refused to acknowledge Him as the source of all life and attributed life to the objects of God's creation themselves. This belief pervades the world and affects our thinking at the deepest levels.

Hymns: 1. Theme on Creator God
2. Theme on God the Source of Life
3. Theme on the Kingdom

Outline

Introduction: Temptation in the Wilderness

- All these kingdoms I will give you... Matt 4:8,9
- Appeared glory and glitter, but what is the reality of Satan's kingdom?
- Pride, disease, passion, lust, hate, jealousy, depression, emptiness, worthlessness.
- Look at the results of this kingdom today.

Suicide Stats for the US in 1998

- 8th ranking cause of death in U.S.
- Average of 1 person every 17.2 minutes killed themselves.
- 764,000 annual attempts in U.S.
- An attempted suicide every 2.8 minutes

Some Australian Statistics

- In 1998 there were 1758 people killed on Australian roads and 2683 Suicides.

Some Depression Stats

- At any given time over 3 million Canadians are suffering depression
- At any given time over 17.5 million Americans are suffering depression of which 11.5 million are women.

Some Family Stats in the US. Every hour in the US

- 3533 babies are born to single mothers
- 2500 divorce victims
- 6033 total broken homes

These statistics are overwhelming fruit of an approach to life that was invented by the prince of lies. This is not the kingdom that Jesus wanted to take over. He had a better way and a better kingdom. He would not take over this kingdom but rather make a path back to His own kingdom. And therefore He said "Away with you Satan" Away with your arrogance, away with your lies and away with your kingdom.

Transition: What I want to do in this presentation is trace the seed to this tragic fruit that the human race is now eating; a world of sorrow and despair, a world of emptiness and worthlessness. And it all goes back to the tree in the middle of the garden...

Humanity seduced by Satan's Kingdom: Gen 3:1-5

“You shall not surely die” – You can live independently from God

“In the day you eat...your eyes shall be opened and you shall be like God”

- Every object in the world has a certain power in itself
- There are objects of power that we can acquire to more fully empower ourselves.
- It is like Satan is saying there are Duracell batteries in this tree and if your smart you will grab them and they will be your source of power.

Illustration: The Garden Gnome: You can make it on your own, you have power inside. How balanced will that child be?

1. The Kingdom of God: The Source of Life Colossians 1:16,17; (Acts 17:24,25,28); SC 9

- God is the source of all life and wisdom and joy. In the physical, mental and spiritual realm God is the creator and sustainer of all creation.
- Every breath we breathe is a gift from heaven, every beat of our hearts is supplied by Him. The discovery of knowledge is inspired by Him James 1:17
- Every joy, every happiness, every moment of calm and peace is a gift to us from our heavenly Father.
- Family times. Love expressed – gift – John 15:5
- The abundance of such gifts make the desire for such things a non issue, they are freely available to all God's Children.

2. The Kingdom of God: The Source of Identity and Value. Matt 10:29-31; Luke 12:6,7; Psalms 40:5

- But within the kingdom of God, there is still more joy than could be imagined.
- God is not simply a generous benefactor that supplies our every need, a kind provider who sits on the throne and rules with justice and fairness. Our God is our Father. A Father that wants to be close to us, to hold us in His arms and just be with us.
- Story about when Michael was born. Prov 17:6

3. Lucifer Divorces Himself From The Father. Isa 14:12-14

- Rejects His Identity as a Son of God
- Conceives a new theory to explain life without God. Gen 3:4
- Forced to Create a New Identity
- Feels the effects – worthlessness, emptiness and despair
- His despair becomes our despair – the wages of sin.

4. A Comparison of the Two Kingdoms.

Attribute	God's Kingdom	Satan's Kingdom
Government	Family	State - Territorial
Currency	Character	Personal & Material Assets
Citizenship	Sons and Daughters of God – Son. Gal 4	Performance and Achievement – Slave. Gal 4

5. Human Race Embraces the Kingdom of Satan.

- Eating From Tree was a transferral to the new kingdom
- We all eat from this tree, we have all been educated in this kingdom. It is the core of our natural hearts.
- There is no way for us to return to God's Kingdom because we only understand performance and achievement. We have no concept of grace, we have no knowledge of our true identity

6. Closing Story

Praying in a circle of young people and I was praying for one young man and thanking God for him and the talents he had given him and as I prayed this young man broke down and started to cry and said by I am so worthless and as I held him in my arms I could say – not in God's eyes.

Conclusion

Appeal to stop eating of the tree of knowledge.

Believe that your life comes from God and you are dependent on Him

Reap the rewards of this fact by resting in a loving relationship with Him

Choose your identity in the person of God not in the works of your hands

Resist depression and despair by choosing to believe you are a child of God.

Tomorrow we look at how we can enter into this beautiful kingdom of God, we do not have the capacity to find it, but there is one who has shown us the way and we will look at that next...