

Genesis 3:1-15 (Matthew 7:1-5) – What’s wrong with the world?

GAME: (SLIDE) What’s wrong with....

Key question – SLIDE What’s wrong with the world? – various answers:

- People with power (N Korea, IS) – ONE REPLACES ANOTHER, INSTABILITY OF LIFE, BROKEN PROMISES, CHAIN OF POWER
- Corrupting effect of media or advertising - CELEBRITY
- POINTING FINGER – (lots of individual issues, but can be summarised as...) ‘Other people’
- Disasters and disease (Nepal - NEWS, London Marathon for charities researching disease)

Real answer: SLIDE – I am

SLIDE: Definition of sin (I in middle) – selfishness, ...

SLIDE rebellion against God

SLIDE “When a man really tells the truth, the first truth he tells is that he himself is a liar.” — G.K. Chesterton, What's Wrong with the World

Features of sin:

Doubt God’s goodness (v1) – SLIDE – only one boundary (not eat from 2 trees) – what happens if set human beings a boundary. Often see God like this... (JUDGE) when should see him like this (FATHER)

Self before God (v6) – SLIDE – note reasons – looked nice, taste nice (before wisdom). Put our desires before obeying God. Don’t have to think very hard for examples.

Hide from God (v8) – SLIDE – about as effective as this lad. Meet a lot of people like this – want to keep as far away from God as possible. Not because not true, but because it is, or might be - QUOTE

“Men despise religion. They hate it and are afraid it may be true. The cure for this is first to show that religion is not contrary to reason but worthy of reverence and respect. Next make it attractive, make good men wish it were true, and then show that it is.” (Blaise Pascal)

Bit in all of us that knows that’s true – though tend not to like to admit it, something which Jesus nails in other passage – READ Matthew 7:3-5.

Problem is not other people. What’s wrong with the world? (SLIDE) I am.

See at young age – SLIDE – ‘no’ and ‘mine’ (even our beautiful butter-wouldn’t-melt babies

But God doesn’t let story end there (more detail next week), we see hints of hope:

- SLIDE: **God comes looking** (v9)
- SLIDE: **God keeps giving** (v21)
- SLIDE: **God provides a way out** – v15 – rest of bible ‘search for serpent crusher’

Ultimately fulfilled in Jesus – why celebrate baptism today. Notice refs to problem – ‘repent of sins’, ‘renounce evil’ – but also a solution, a new hope. Jesus is the serpent crusher of 3:15. He is the one who can offer us life, forgiveness and hope, and this is what we celebrate in baptism today.

SLIDE What’s wrong with the world? I am.

SLIDE Who’s the hope of the world? He is.