

Happy Lord's Day, brothers and sisters.
Let's jump right in.

Do you remember the four parts of the Kerygma? Or how about the four words that can be used as something to help us remember? CREATED, CAPTURED, RESCUED, RESPONSE. Last week's column dealt with the first part, CREATED. This week we'll look at the second part, CAPTURED. *(Just a reminder to you that you can find all of these columns on the parish website either by looking at the bulletins or by clicking on the Literature tab on the left side of the page a little further down.)*

The second part of the Kerygma is the most unpleasant of the four - hopefully the *only* unpleasant of the four. Even while it's unpleasant, we need to understand how important it is. Perhaps you remember, the word gospel means "good news". If you think about it, hearing good news implies that something was less than good prior to the news being shared. An example that I really like is D-Day, June 6th, 1944. What kind of news would the American landing at Normandy have been if there wasn't a terrible tyrant ruling over France at the time? It would have been so strange to see all those troops arrive on the beaches, ready to fight a war, if France hadn't been demolished by the Nazi regime. Yet, because it had been demolished, the arrival of the American forces was such incredible news for the French citizens at the time. It's the same for us as Catholic-Christians. Jesus' arrival to earth was only good news because the human race found itself in a tragic situation.

The Book of Genesis reveals to us that we, humans, have an enemy. One of God's angels hates that God has it in his mind to make us godly. He becomes envious of us and sets out to destroy us by deceiving us into thinking that we can find happiness without God. When Satan (the accuser) or the devil (the divider) - two names he goes by - came to Adam and Eve, he set out to trick them into rebelling against the good God. His strategy is simple and effective: he accused the good God of not being good and so led the man and woman into thinking that God was trying to hinder their freedom and happiness rather than provide those things for them. His strategy worked. The man and the woman disobeyed God's one command, choosing to rebel against the One who provided everything for them and who had such abundance prepared for them. In disobeying, the man and the woman unleashed a series of tragic consequences into the world that would affect all people of all time, including you and me.

Relationships are broken: between God and humans, between man and woman, between humans and the rest of creation, and even between ourselves individually. Death enters into a story that God did not intend it to enter into. There's nothing we can do to prevent our ultimate end, no one escapes death. Before we die, we see in the Bible that the human race is sold into the hands of the enemy, no longer in the freedom of being God's children but instead slaves to the one who despises us. God's one plan for your life was to make you like himself. The enemy's one plan for your life is to use you and abuse you over and over and over again. This is the tragic situation of the human race, what we might call the Bad News. Yet we need not despair for too long, because this all paves the way for the next part of the Kerygma. We've seen how we were CREATED and now we see how we were CAPTURED. Next week we'll see how we've been RESCUED.

May the Lord give you his peace!
Fr. Bryan