

Last Week's Sermon Summary

"What is the Fall?"

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

Genesis 3:1~13, Mark 12:28~34

❶ **【Sin is the inability to become a true person】** Genesis chapter 3 describes the beginning of human sin. In the center of the Garden of Eden were the "Tree of Life" and the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," but God told Adam, "Take and eat from all the trees in the Garden, but never from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If you eat it, you will surely die." (Genesis 2:17). These two trees are depicted as symbols of the two ways of living life. The tree of life is a symbol of how to live by God, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is a symbol of how to live by one's own strength, becoming wise, and gaining wisdom like God. So what is sin? The Greek word "hamartia," which means "to miss the mark." Let's not think of sin legally as a violation of the commandments. Rather, think of it as a state in which human existence as a whole has not become a real person. You can see this in the world today. People who wage war, leaders of countries who think only for their own interests, parents who kill their own children with impunity, etc. Aren't you ashamed of yourself as a person?" Not a person (not a person)!" It is often said. The fact that man is created as the image of the Triune God means that the real man is one who loves one another. It is a sin that it is not so.

❷ **【Dialogue with the Devil】** How did this happen in [Dialogue with the Devil]? There was a serpent in the Garden of Eden. The serpent is depicted as a symbol of the devil. The

serpent said to the woman. Since God said, "Take and eat from every tree in the garden," we can see that the devil speaks the exact opposite of God. It was to make her think that God was a fool, to make Eve's heart uneasy and to make her doubt about God. Eve said, "We can eat the fruit of the tree in the garden, but God has said that we must not eat, touch, or die from the fruit of the tree that grows in the center of the garden." (3:3). Eve also included the tree of life as a forbidden tree, and added the words "do not touch it." Then the devil said, "You will never die, and God knows that when you eat it, your eyes will be opened, and you will know good and evil like God." (3:4~5). When they took the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and ate it, their eyes were opened, as the devil had said, but they opened to the world. They find out that they are naked and cover their hips with fig leaves. "Nakedness" is a symbol of weakness. It means that man knew and feared his weakness and began to decorate it with various things. Humans who have acquired knowledge become more and more anxious.

❸ **【Consequences of sin ~ Loss of fellowship ~】** When Adam and Eve heard the sound of God walking, they "hide among the trees in the garden, avoiding God's face." When God called Adam, he said, "I heard your footsteps in the garden, and I am frightened, and I am hiding, for I am naked." (3:10). He also blamed Eve for eating the fruit of the tree, and Eve blamed the serpent. Here it is written how the "relationship" is gradually crumbling due to sin. People will move away from God, and they will live a life that is far away from those with whom they live. Loss of fellowship is a symptom of sin.⁷

Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan
Miyakojima Church

Mission Established December 1, 1957

Church Established December 2, 2001

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《The Last Judgment》

Miyakojima Church's 2024 Mission Policy

Motto : "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

Scripture : "No one can lay any other foundation, ignoring the foundation that has already been laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.
- 4 Cultivate the consciousness of building a church together.