“What A Mess!”

Those were the first words out of my mouth when we drove into Slidell, Louisiana seven months after hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast region back in 2005.

Up and down every street for as far as the eye could see there were “mountains” of molded mattresses, clothes, appliances, TV’s, couches, chairs and carpet. Everything was ruined!

I’m sure those of you who went up to BERTIE COUNTRY yesterday to help the tornado victims saw a very similar site and thought to yourself, “WHAT A MESS!

Life Is Full of Messes!

……Everyone here this morning who has had children, no doubt has Cleaned up LOTS of MESSES!

……Ladies, if you’ve got a husband who leaves his dirty socks and Underwear on the floor, you’ve seen some real messes!
If you’ve ever had a backed up septic system, you know what
A big mess that is!

Every time after a hurricane blows through here, most of us
Have a big mess to clean up in the yard.

But there are other kinds of messes........

* Have you ever got caught in a “messy” traffic jam?

*Have you ever known someone who went through a “messy”
  Divorce?

*Have you ever seen a family get in a BIG MESS fighting over
  An inheritance?

*Have you ever heard of a church going through a “messy” split?

*Ever hear of someone being tangled up in a “messy” relationship
  .........or being involved in a “messy” lawsuit?”

Life is full of messes!

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In today’s message we are going to look at “The Mess
of All Messes!” Of course, I’m talking about THE BIG
MESS Adam and Eve created in the Garden of Eden.

Adam & Eve Had It Made!

-They had THE PERFECT MARRIAGE!
-They had THE PERFECT LIVING CONDITIONS
  ......A paradise unlike anything man has ever seen since.

-And they had THE PERFECT LIFE.........A life with no pain…no
  sickness......no disease.....no sorrow.....and no death!
NO TWO PEOPLE EVER HAD IT AS GOOD AS ADAM AND EVE!

But Then Adam and Eve Made A Big Mess Out of Everything!

Along with the privilege of living in this perfect place, GOD placed ONE restriction……..just one!

Turn back to GENESIS 2: 16, 17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat From any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

In essence, the covenant between GOD and Adam and Eve was this…………

You can remain in this paradise forever provided you never eat the fruit of this one tree. Eat from it.......and paradise will be taken from you.

Adam and Eve clearly understood the boundaries as well as the severity of the penalty if they disobeyed God.

While we’re on this subject let me ask you something. What is it about our human nature that causes us to do the one thing we are forbidden to do?

For example........
Why is it when we see a sign that says, “WET PAINT” we have to touch it to make sure it's wet?

Why is it when the sign at the EXPRESS CHECKOUT specifically says, 20 ITEMS OR LESS, we have to get in that line with 25 items as if we are daring the checkout clerk to “have us arrested” for excessive items in our cart.

I mean, why do YOU GUYS do that?

God told Adam and Eve…….”You can eat from every Other tree in the garden except this ONE!” Boy did that arouse their curiosity!

And of course any time we have the desire to do wrong, SATAN is more than willing to oblige us!

Notice the tactics Satan used here:

A. First, SATAN CHALLENGED GOD’S WORD vs. 1

READ : VERSE 1

GOD had commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from this One tree for their own good. GOD was protecting them By placing this one tree off limits.

SATAN has turned God’s positive command into a negative command. He is trying to convince Eve that God did not give this command to protect them, but rather to deprive them.

“God is just holding out on you!”
“God just doesn’t want you to have any fun!”

SATAN CHALLENGED GOD’S WORD!

B. Secondly, SATAN CONFUSED GOD’S WORD

READ: VERSES 2, 3
Here we see Satan has successfully “confused” the word of God. Eve is confused about what God had really said.

**GOD did say,** ‘You are forbidden to eat the fruit from The tree in the middle of the garden.”

**BUT………GOD never said** “and you must not touch it!”

SATAN had confused God’s Word in such a way, Eve’s memory of what God really said is hazy.

**SATAN CHALLENGED GOD’S WORD!**
**SATAN CONFUSED GOD’S WORD!**

C. **Thirdly, SATAN CHANGED GOD’S WORD**

**READ: VERSES 3, 4**

**Remember what GOD had said in Genesis 2:17?**

“for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

*(Genesis 2:17)*

Satan has now completely changed God’s Word!
Satan told Eve, “You will NOT surely die.”

Now its important that we understand something about all this!
Satan knew that he could never touch Adam and Eve as long as they completely trusted and depended on God.

Satan knew the only way he could possibly ever sway Them away from God was to undermine God’s credibility, Motives and character.

SO………….He first CHALLENGED GOD’S WORD!

Then………….He CONFUSED GOD’S WORD!

And when he wore down Eve’s resolve…..
HE COMPLETELY CHANGED GOD’S WORD!

And verse 6 tells the tragic result………..

“*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*”

Don’t miss a KEY POINT here. Throughout the centuries we have been extremely hard on EVE as though all this were her fault. You notice verse 6 says, “She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”

ADAM had been there the whole time.
ADAM, who was supposed to be the head of his home……and the protector of his wife, just stood by silently while Satan worked his evil plan on Eve.

What A Mess! What A Big, Ugly Mess!
...

For the very first time, ADAM and EVE were ashamed of their nakedness and covered themselves with fig leaves.

......For the very first time, they ran and hid from GOD rather than running out to meet God.

......When God questioned them about THEIR SIN, Adam pointed the finger of blame at Eve. And Eve pointed the finger of blame at the Serpent!

......GOD’S PERFECT PLAN.....HIS BEAUTIFUL CREATION was now “marred with the horribleness of sin!”

* THE SERPENT was cursed to crawl on his belly and eat dust the rest of his days.

* EVE was cursed with intense, unbearable physical pain in childbirth and was placed under submission to her husband.

* ADAM was cursed with the aches and pains of hard labor tending the soil of the earth.

* AND BOTH ADAM and EVE were banished from PARADISE forever!

* AND it was on that day, ADAM and EVE began their journey to the grave and forfeited their immortality.

Oh What A Mess! What A Mess!

Man had created a mess he couldn’t clean up! A mess that was so BIG, so AWFUL......he couldn’t do one solitary thing to undo it!

-What could man do to erase his sin? NOTHING!
-What could man do to ERASE the penalty of his sin?  
    NOTHING!

-What could man do to RESTORE his broken relationship 
    With GOD?  NOTHING!

-What could man do to RECLAIM his lost paradise?  
    NOTHING!

This really was THE MESS of ALL MESSES!
And The Mess that all started in the Garden of Eden
Thousands of years ago has gotten bigger and bigger
With time.

THAT MESS gave birth to EVERY SICKNESS
    EVERY DISEASE
    EVERY ACHE
    AND EVERY PAIN

THAT MESS gave birth to EVERY MURDER
    EVERY WAR
    EVERY ROBBERY
    EVERY VICE
    AND EVERY ADDICTION

THAT MESS gave birth to EVERY DIVORCE
    EVERY ACT OF ADULTERY
    EVERY ACT OF INCEST
    EVERY ACT OF SPOUSAL ABUSE
    AND EVERY ACT OF CHILD ABUSE

And now man is consumed with “cleaning up all the 
messes” in the world!

    *We’ve got to clean up THE ECONOMIC MESS
    *We’ve got to clean up THE EDUCATION MESS
We've got to clean up THE ENVIRONMENTAL MESS
*We’ve got to clean up THE POLITICAL MESS
*We’ve got to clean up THE GLOBAL WARMING MESS

And what man doesn’t realize is he can’t clean up this BIG MESS that now exist in this fallen world! There is only one who can and that is THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

You see, even before the foundations of the earth were laid……even before ADAM AND EVE made their “BIG MESS” in the Garden of Eden, GOD already had a “Clean up” plan in place!

GENESIS 3:15     And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

This was GOD’S first promise to send A SAVIOR to save us from the terrible MESS OF SIN that all began in the Garden of Eden.

*Only through JESUS can man defeat SATAN.
*Only through JESUS can man conquer SIN!
*Only through JESUS can man overcome DEATH.
*Only through JESUS can man have the HOPE of Eternal life in God’s Heavenly paradise!

Only Jesus can clean up “The Big Mess!”

CONCLUSION

In closing I want to share something with you that is supposedly attributed to the late comedian, George Carlin, following the death of his wife.
The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider Freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom.

Man has had six thousand years to “clean up” the mess Adam and Eve made in the Garden of Eden. If man is so smart! If man seemingly has all the answers and solutions to his own problems, why has “THE MESS” got bigger instead of better?

As we close this morning, let’s bring this message down to a more personal level. Have you made “a mess” out of your life? Have you made some foolish mistakes and some unwise choices that has left your life turned upside down? If so, all is not hopeless! There is “no mess” too big for Christ. Why don’t you turn the “shattered pieces” of your life over to Him this morning?