

The Fall and the First Promise

WHAT WE FOUND

- The serpent's playbook has three moves: distort God's word, deny the consequence, slander the Giver's motive. It has not changed.
- The Church reads Genesis 3 with both hands: figurative language, real primeval event, real inherited wound (CCC 390).
- God's first word to fallen humanity is a pursuing question, "Where are you?": an open door, not an interrogation.
- Original sin is contracted, not committed: a deprivation we inherit, not a personal fault we are blamed for (CCC 404–405). And the same human solidarity that carried the wound carries the cure in Christ (Romans 5).
- Inside the curse on the serpent, God makes the Bible's first promise (Genesis 3:15): the seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head at the cost of a wound. The Church calls it the protoevangelium, the first gospel.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Irenaeus of Lyons · *Against Heresies, Book III* (see CCC 494)

"The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith."

VOICE OF THE CHURCH

The Church's Liturgy · *The Exsultet, Easter Vigil* (see CCC 412)

"O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!" God did not merely repair the ruin; He answered it with a greater gift.

VOICE OF THE CHURCH

St. Augustine · *Enchiridion* (see CCC 311)

God, supremely good, would never allow any evil in His works unless He were powerful and good enough to bring good even out of evil itself.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Go to confession this week if you are able. Walk in as an answer to "Where are you?"
- Write one true sentence about God that answers the serpent-move that works best on you; keep it where you will see it daily.
- Pray one slow Hail Mary daily this week, hearing it as the untying of the knot.
- Read Genesis 4 and 5 before next session; read every name.

MEMORY VERSE

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read Genesis 4–5 before next session.

Catechism references: CCC 385, 390, 396–405, 410–412, 494.