

Bethel Bible Series

Disharmony

Study 3

*Morals are being good for goodness' sake.
Humanistic moralism reduces the profoundness of sin to pettiness. PK*

Welcome

Introductions - Identify your least favorite Bible character and why
Memory Review = Recite OT books / Throw out concepts
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week

Think Hebrew - Look for the CARGO, Don't focus on the VEHICLE (words, stories)

How would a Hebrew describe God? = Sung by David when God saved him from his enemies & Saul
Psalm 18:2 = My rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, salvation

What are some forms of Literary Media? = Ask class to respond

Historical Reporting	= Straight events the way they happened
Poetry	= Poetic description of an event or message
Personification	= Inanimate objects given human qualities
Fable	= Makes a moral point using a fictional story
Allegory	= One action or thing is symbolic of another
Imagery and Symbolism	= Figurative language

InDepth Research Project: New Testament examples of these different literary styles

Genesis 1 - Creation and its Concepts = Have someone present

Hands lifting the earth out of hazy mist = God created the heavens and the earth
Halo of white light circling the earth = God created all things good
Fingers opened on the right hand = God relinquished the earth to humankind as a gift
White links attached to the arms and globe = God binds Himself to His creation
Lettered banner flying on the earth = God claims ownership of all that He's fashioned
Figure grasping staff = Humankind, too, is owned by God
Banner furling around figure = Man has freedom within limits
Halo of light behind figures' heads = Mankind was fashioned in the image and likeness of God
Figures holding crowns = Man is the crown of God's creation
Four jewels in crowns = God put man in garden to work and take care of the earth
Jewel 1 = To replenish the earth (Multiply)
Jewel 2 = To subdue the earth (Make Use)
Jewel 3 = To dress, till and keep the earth (Take Care)
Jewel 4 = To have dominion over the earth (Take Charge)

Genesis 2 - Divine Intentions = Ask class

Garden = Paradise
Note banner extended from heavens = God wanted Perfect Harmony for His creation
Four mountain peaks = God intended a four-fold harmony for man
Raised arms of figures = Harmony with God
Banner enfolding figures = Harmony with self – also joyful countenance and posture
Clasped arms of figures = Harmony with others
Banner flowing through peaceful lake scene = Harmony with nature
Figures with faces lifted upward = Harmony is contingent upon obedience with God
Halos behind figures' heads = Made in God's image, man was able to perfectly obey God's will

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What Happened to God's Divine Intentions = Show Picture

Broken Note = God's Divine Intention of Perfect Harmony is mutilated and maligned

Other Views of Reason for Disharmony

New Age Movement = Unity Church, Shirley MacLaine

Problem is = *There is no sin*

Gnostics = Reveal the hidden knowledge to free self from evil material world and

Gnosis = "knowledge" into the pure spiritual world

"We are our own gods"

Sin = only a part of the imaginary material world

Get into your mind and spirit = to escape the illusion of sin

Dualist = Matter is bad, Spirit is good

Problem is = Physical

Remove evil matter = so that only pure spirit is left

Rationalist = Everything can be rationalized - Socrates

Problem is = Incorrect Thoughts

Need to think right = and we'll achieve harmony

Humanist = Man is master of his own destiny

Problem is = Immaturity

Over time, man will learn = and build a utopian world without conflict

"We're getting better every day"

Determinist = A person's nature is determined by heredity and environment

Problem is = Society

Behavior results from circumstances beyond our control, We aren't responsible for our actions

Undercuts moral responsibility = Heart of "AA" rejects this theme

God-Blamer = God's responsible for everything right and wrong with creation

Problem is = God's fault

God screwed up when he made humans = We'd be perfect if he'd done it right

Christian

Problem is = SIN

Figure facing away from outstretched hand = Disobedience leads to disharmony

Upon what was God's Perfect Harmony contingent? = Study 2 Picture

Figure facing hand of God = Harmony contingent upon obedience

What Is Sin? (Divine Drama 21A) = List answers from class on board, then refer to pictures on page 5

Sin (1) = Archery term for "Miss the target"

Hebrew *hata'* = Fall short of divine standards

Greek *hamartia* = Man's nature of moral fault

Trespass (2) = Walk in forbidden places

Hebrew *'Avon* = Deviate from divine standard

Transgress (3) = Go beyond a specified limit, Cross over the line

Hebrew *pasha'* = Man's revolt against God's standards or Will

Lawlessness (4) = An attitude of contempt for God's Law

Greek *adikia* = Wrongdoing, Unrighteousness, Injustice

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Revolt

Outstretched arms of central figure = Man revolts against God and his "limited freedom"

Question a – Genesis 3 suggests that Adam and Eve were unaware of God-given limits to their freedom

True or False? = False

Genesis 3:1-3 = Eve told the serpent the limits God had set, even expanded to prohibit touch

Question b – Genesis 3 implies that the first humans wanted to decide good and bad for themselves

True or False? = True

Genesis 3:4-5 = You will know good and evil when you eat

Question c – Genesis 3 indicates that such a prerogative belongs only to God

True or False? = True

Genesis 3:11 = Who said you were naked? Did you eat?

Question d – Genesis 3 shows Adam and Eve discontent with their limits and wanting to be like God

True or False? = True

Genesis 3:6 = Eve saw it was desirable for wisdom and they ate, Adam also (was with her)

Question e – Genesis 3 clearly reveals nothing less than a human revolt against God

True or False? = True

Did Adam and Eve willfully and deliberately revolt? = Yes, 3:6

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Space between figure and outstretched hand = Disobedience and revolt brings separation from God

What is the result of this revolt? = Separation from God

Genesis 3:23-24 = Man banished from Garden, God can't accept sinners into kingdom

Question f – Genesis 3 suggests that the revolt destroyed God's intent and resulted in disharmony

True or False? = True

Painful countenance on figure's face = Disharmony with God

Genesis 3:8 = They hid from God

Broken note piercing side = Disharmony with self

Genesis 3:7, 10 = They were ashamed of themselves and their nakedness

Contrast with Genesis 2:25 = They were naked and felt no shame

Broken note striking other figure = Disharmony with others

Genesis 3:11-13 = Man blamed woman, Woman blamed serpent

Broken note penetrating earth = Disharmony with nature

Genesis 3:17-19 = Man and nature pitted against each other

Cracked earth and parched ground = Disharmony with nature leads to misuse of God's creation

Disharmonies Today = Just like Adam and Eve in Genesis 3

How do we respond to God after sin? = We avoid and hide from Him

How do we feel about ourselves after sin? = Ashamed

How do we relate with others after sin? = Point blame, pass responsibility

How do our sins (including misuse of creation) affect nature? = Acid rain, toxic waste...

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Guilt and Sense of Guilt

Yokelike appearance of broken note = Sin leaves man with burden of guilt and "sense of guilt"

Guilt = Responsibility given by God when His will is violated

Funk & Wagnalls = The fact or condition of having committed a legal or moral offense

Sense of Guilt = What we feel when we violate God's will – or think we have

Funk & Wagnalls = A feeling of remorse from a real or imagined commission of an offense

Give examples of Guilt without Sense of Guilt = Driving 60 mph, "White lies"

Give examples of Sense of Guilt without Guilt = Enjoying God's blessings, feeling responsible for other's errors

Trying to Get Rid of the Sense of Guilt

How do we handle Guilt without Sense of Guilt?

Moral responsibility is changed by:

Numbers Method = "Everyone else does it"; Speeding, Cursing, Sex, Drugs Statistics

Erasure Method = "God won't hold me responsible for this" Erase God and His standard

Comparative Method = "Others do worse than me. I'm better than them." What others do

Ledger Method = "I'll do something good to even up the score." A bribe

Activity Method = "I'm too busy to think about what I do." Forgetfulness

Projection Method = "It's not my fault; my situation forced me to do it." Circumstances

None of these effect our Guilt, only our Sense of Guilt

We can change our feelings to reduce a Sense of Guilt, but we can't do anything about Guilt itself

The Promise

Large hand in beckoning position = God didn't abandon sinful man, He gave a promise

Question g – Genesis 3 has no positive notes or signs of hope within it anywhere.

True or False? = False

Genesis 3:15 = First Messianic Prophecy (Promise of a Savior)

I will put enmity between you and the woman = Natural hatred where had posed on same side

and between your offspring = Satan's legions

and hers = Jesus Christ

He = Jesus Christ - Note the singular form

will crush your head = Christ will destroy Satan (Satan is head of his legions)

and you will strike his heel = Satan will attack Christians (Heel is Christ's body)

Romans 8:19 = All of creation waits longingly for the harmony of Christ

Summary

Review Picture Concepts = Assign In-Depth student to present next week

InDepth - Be prepared for Test 2 next week

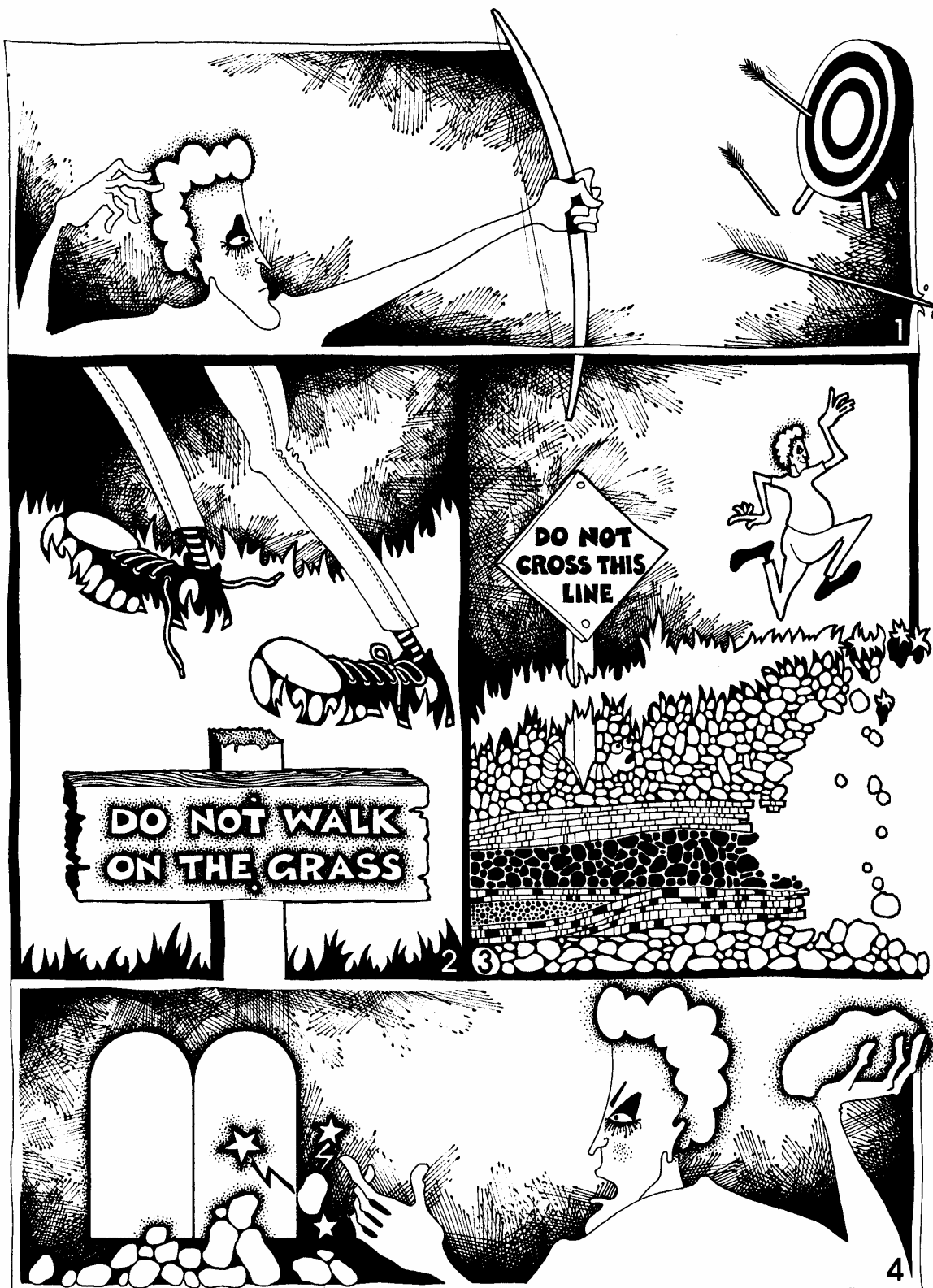
Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 3 and Assignment 4

Next Week - *The Word of God*

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The Houston Post
SUNDAY, July 30, 1989



Lynn
Ashby

This lack of assuming responsibility for one's actions is not found only in small cases, but in major schemes, too. We have hundreds, maybe thousands, of businessmen and women who have ripped off money through sleazy savings and loan associations. Not only were the other employees and depositors taken to the laundry, you and I will be paying out billions of dollars in taxes to right those wrongs. But where, pray tell, is anyone at all who will stand up and say, "I screwed up"?

Ditto for Texas bankers. Their greed is costing us dearly and will for years to come. But have any of them accepted responsibility for running fine old institutions into bankruptcy due to their own ineptitude? Name one.

We have two-pack-a-day cigarette smokers suing tobacco companies because, after four decades of puffing, the smokers have cancer. We have people who leave a bar staggering drunk. They go out and kill three people in a car wreck and then sue the bartender.

These people may have been deprived, but they were far from deprived. And the rest of us pay for their irresponsibility through higher taxes, steeper insurance rates, more inconvenient laws. Well, I don't know about you — I'm getting sick of it. But it's not really my fault that I feel that way.

Consider another case, that of Harold and Candace Thorp of Seattle. They sued Jim Beam for \$4 million. Why? Because Candace admitted that when she was pregnant she chugged down as much as half a fifth of Jim Beam a day. When she gave birth to a malformed child, she sued the distillers.

Or another: the so-called "wilding" attack in New York's Central Park on a female jogger by a gang of male teen-agers. The jogger was raped and so severely beaten that she may never recover. Shortly thereafter, some sociologists said it was not the teen-agers' fault, but society's.

Locally, we have the Compaq Computer case. Remember that one? The company discovered that some of its employees were using, and even trafficking in, drugs. The company busted the operation. Shortly thereafter I got a hot phone call from a mother of one of the suspects. She was greatly upset that the story was in the paper. Oh, yes, her son had been involved in illegal drugs, but that wasn't the point. The point was that the press had done him a terrible disservice and the company wasn't blameless, either, snooping around like that. The more she talked, the more I realized why her son was in trouble.

Now come on. This is getting out of hand. In the case of Kevin Ross, where was he for four years? He knew he was pulling a quick one. And now, years later, he still refuses to take responsibility for his actions. It's the same for the rest of them. The blame goes somewhere else, and quite probably I should be paid for my problems. Remember the line in the song from *West Side Story*? "I'm deprived on account of I'm deprived." Perhaps there is some truth to that, but I doubt it.

They did it, but it's not their fault

LET US CONSIDER the sad, strange case of Kevin Ross. He attended Creighton University in Omaha and played basketball. Apparently that is about all he did, except for taking courses such as Theories of Basketball. Ross completed four years and remained eligible all four by maintaining a D average.

Upon his leaving Creighton it was learned that he couldn't read or write.

His story made a big hoopla and everyone got righteously angry at the exploitation of the young man. Ross then went to a private elementary school in Chicago to become literate.

End of story? No. For Ross is now suing his alma mater, but not because he was used and tossed away. Rather — it is claimed — he is suffering severe depression because he had to go back to elementary school. The strain, Ross' lawyer says, forced Ross to be treated by psychiatrists. Ross and his lawyer want lots of money to make amends.

OK, it goes without saying that the coaches, administrators and the academic/athletic system at Creighton are a low form of life. Indeed, going back farther, what kind of high school did he attend? He received a diploma from Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kan. What do they do at that place? This is, certainly, an example of the overpowering, corruptive strength of collegiate athletics at its worst.