

Mar 1 intro

The theme of this Sunday is FREE WILL. Hard to discover that! You'd never have guessed, right? Adam and Eve are given everything needed to be happy—along with Free Will. (dammit! Seems like a trick maybe.) Love has to be FREELY GIVEN. If God wants to be loved, he has to make it possible for us NOT to LOVE HIM back. That opens up the world to SIN.

CS Lewis wrote Screwtape Letters, a wonderful book. The devil Screwtape says: *I don't understand God. (true!) I'd have MADE these miserable human creatures, love me!*

Here is a clever cartoon Frank & Ernest. It cleverly lays out the 2 sides of FREE WILL



PSALM 51:3-6, 12-13, 17

{background to the PSALM: **David** sins & **then repents.**}

David had been taken from being a lowly shepherd to being the King. Not enough! He wants Bathsheba, who is married to Uriah. She tells David, "I am pregnant." So he gets Uriah killed. (Find the whole story in 2 Samuel 11 & 12) This Psalm was written by David, after Nathan told him: **God will cause this child to die for your sin.** David's response: "NO, spare the child; take ME". Then—after the sin—he wore coarse clothes and ate nothing. Not the response of a KING, but of a SINNER. This PSALM is **David's words of repentance.** God accepted his sorrow and gave him another son, Solomon. [=forgiveness]

Here are the PSALM's first 2 verses: For the leader. A psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Now the words make sense, don't they. And Nathan says to David: God has seen your sincere repentance. You are forgiven. But the child will still die, [there are still consequences from using drugs, alcohol, recreational sex, etc.] yet God will give you back another child because of your sorrow. David asks Yahweh: Deliver me from the consequences of my sin; let me enjoy being close to YOU again; let me sing with JOYFUL praise to You. This is David's response to his God who forgives him.

PAUL to the ROMANS Most early Xtians in Rome were Jews. Paul tells all those, who see troubles in this life as punishment from God: *Christ's sacrifice is God's gift of pardon to the entire human race.* Paul, says: *The dreadful power [Free Will] that is in all us humans, 'urges' us to revolt against the Creator [like Adam and Eve did].* Like them we often choose our own desires and interests. But you and I, can't say, "Adam made me do it," we all are culpable. . . **in as much as all sinned.*

Everyone knows Good and Evil. Gentiles have the law written in their hearts [the **#Natural Law**], and Jews have the **#Law** given to Moses. Our sinfulness—from the beginning—starting with Adam and Eve got worse! But XT undid it all, made it even better, so we are restored to the **GARDEN, as Yahweh originally intended**—guaranteed! How? Through XT. . . *'life came to all'*. XT put it all back together as it is pictured 'in the Garden of Eden'.

* Fr. Demetrius said: EVERY sin is just another version of Adam and EVE's sin. That is the mythical meaning.

[The story of Adam and Eve is Hebrew Mythology, as are the first 11 Chapters of Genesis. If you want more on this, and 'original sin', check the attached doc.]

the #Law given to Moses. Moses asks: Where do you have to go to know the Law? He answers: NO WHERE. It is not far away; it is written **in your heart!** (Deuteronomy 30:11-14)

*For this commandment which I command you today, it is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' **But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it". We call it the Natural Law.***

Gospel

Jesus is tempted RIGHT AFTER HIS BAPTISM. An example for us? YES.

The Temptation [as in Adam & Eve] was to be NOT faithful to the Father. All of Jesus' responses to @@Satan/the devil/the tempter are from—YES! Deuteronomy.

The temptations of XT mirror the temptation of the Hebrews wandering for 40 years in the Desert of Life, searching for the Promised Land (v. EDEN). And our temptations in the desert of OUR life, as we are trying to make it through this dessert to our promised Heaven.

40 Days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai; Israelites **40 years** in the Desert. **40** = the **appropriate** time/ or maybe **enough** time /or **40** generally means a **VERY LONG TIME**. Not exactly 39 + 1. Noah's Flood lasted **40 days** and **40 nights**, right?

@@Satan/the devil/the tempter

Satan This term comes from Zoroaster, ancient teacher in Persia, Iran today.

In Farsi, [language of Iran] *sâtan* is a noun meaning "accuser" or "adversary". Satan or Shaitan basically means someone **who stands in our way**, an obstacle.

Here SATAN stands in Jesus' way—and ours!

Islam has a similar term and idea.

Dev is a term also used in Zoroastrianism. It means a 'demon' spirit, a non-human, a Grotesque creature. Does **Dev** sound like **DEVIL** to you?

An interesting point is that BOTH Matt and Luke have identical accounts of the Temptation of Xt. This seems to indicate they had the same mysterious source, called by scholars: Quelle.

I mentioned Q a few weeks ago. Scholars think it was an Oral Tradition, well known, but never written down as a document.

In this
picture

Painted
by Titian

1550

when he was

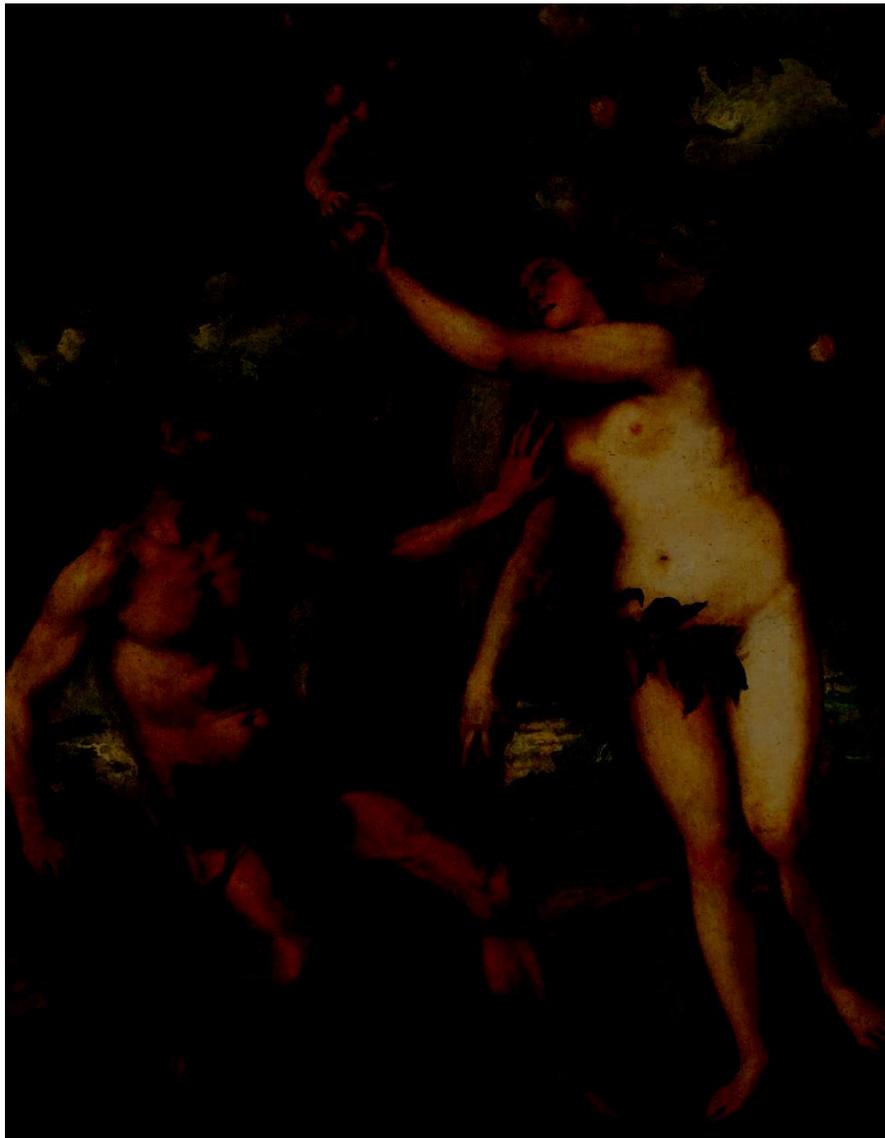
90!

Notice the
SNAKE
doesn't seem to be
a *monster* devil!

It has
a child's head;
but do
Adam & Eve notice
a serpent's tail?

What is Titian
saying about
SIN
and
TEMPTATION?

[A *little child* is
totally unaware
of being naked.]



In many primitive cultures the 'diaper' problem is solve by little ones not wearing clothes. Some cultures even a non-sexual word for "little kid", that is not denoting which sex kid is, because a little kid is not yet sexual (in the culture's eyes). The difference was Clear and out in the open, but not important. Today sexual difference is most important, but not acknowledged. Think all the hype over: Transgender, non-binary, etc.

El Greco
c. 1590

Painted this for the
Hospital of San Juan

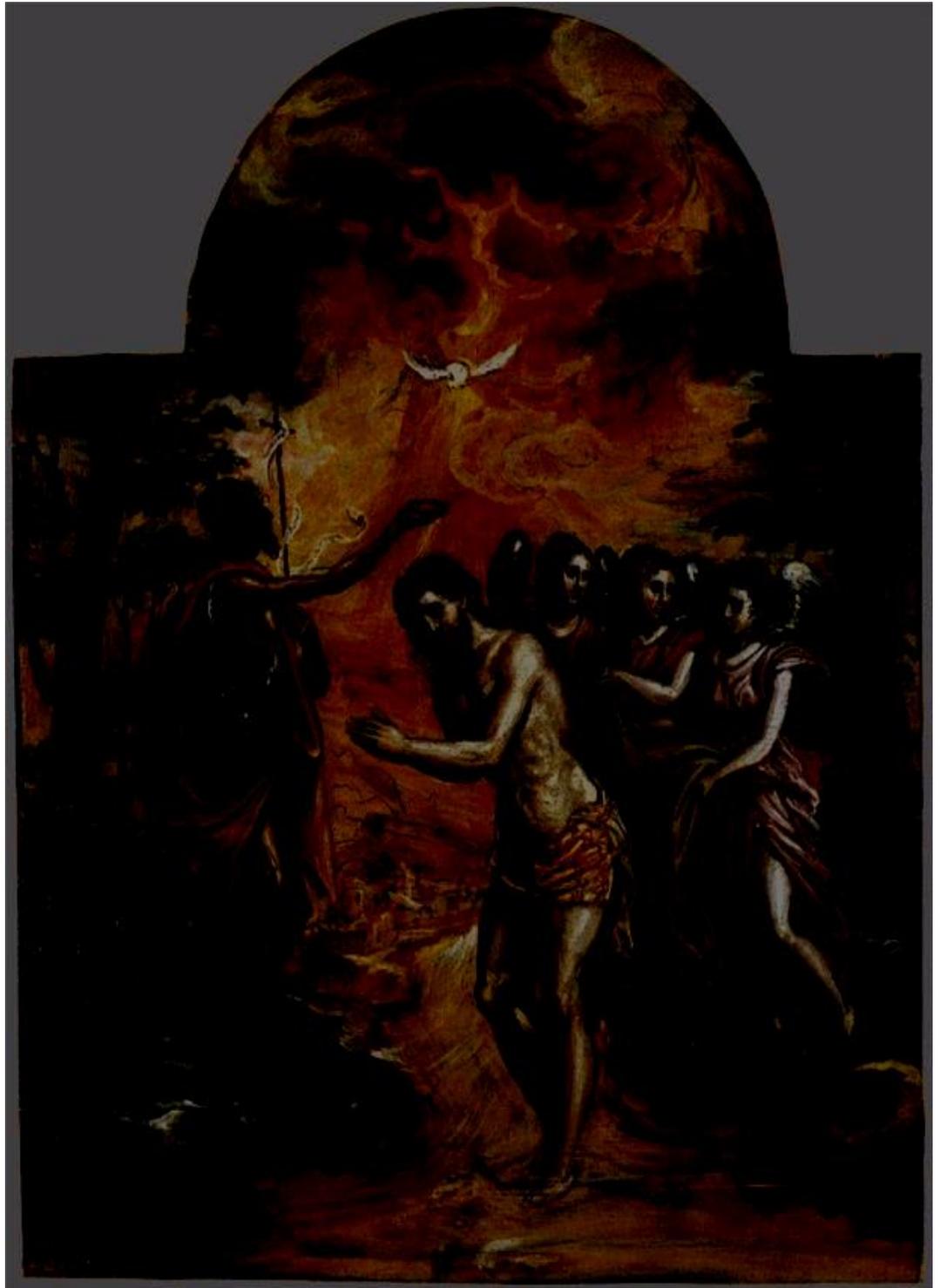
note all the
power in the cloud
The Father

&
Dove
who goes between
Heaven & Earth

all the Angels ready
to help XT

&

US



Another by
El Greco

one of my
favorite artists

in TOLEDO
[Spain, not OH]
I was there!

note
all the souls
with
The Father
waiting
to be saved
by XT

DOVE
hovering in AIR
over
XT

with the
LIVING water

Angels
again

ABOVE
with God
&
BELOW
with XT
&
US

