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SERMON NOTES

PASTOR ROBERT HATCH
THE DECEPTION OF BLAME

Genesis 3:8 (NIV) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Adam started by blaming Eve for his failure but ultimately _____ his blame on God.

The big deception: When things go wrong Satan wants us to blame the _____ that can help us.

John 11:1 (NIV) Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles[b] from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

What did Martha do here? She _____ blamed Jesus for her brother's death.

28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.

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32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus was literally the _____ that could help her brother now.

Proverbs 19:3 (NLT) People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord.

Instead of blaming God people should really be blaming _____.

Genesis 3:12 (NIV) The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Ecclesiastes 7:29 (NLT) But I did find this: God created people to be virtuous, but they have each turned to follow their own downward path."

Truth: It's not our environment, it's not our situation, it's not our upbringing that cause our failures. We make the choices on our own and we are _____ for our own sins.

Romans 3:10 (NIV) As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; Romans 3:23 (NIV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

TWO STEPS:

Step #1 Instead of blaming God we run to him for _____.

John 11:33 (NIV) When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

2 Corinthians 1:3 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Step #2 Instead of blaming God we turn to him for help to _____.

John 11:43 (NIV) When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Psalms 27:1 (NIV) The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

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