



THE GREAT COUP

One day the cops pulled into the neighborhood, tracking this guy down on the **FBI** Wanted List. They had gotten an anonymous tip and it was legit, this time. They had the SWAT team, Chopper, and the guys on the ground all in place. Amazingly, they snuck up on him without his knowledge and **BAM** they slammed him down without a shot fired. They had finally caught him! As they were cuffing him some bystanders started coming out gawking and videoing with their cellphones asking “HEY, what did the guy do? Was he a serial killer? **NO** the cops said “Was he a big time drug dealer? **NO** the cops replied “Ok, was it burglary, or was he a serial rapist, a spouse or child abuser??? **NO!** growled the officers. well tell us **WHAT DID HE DO!!!** One of the cops finally said, “He stole some fruit!!”

SAY WHAT... you went to all this trouble for some dude stealing some fruit?!?!?!??

As they put guy in the squad car and started heading down to the station the criminal asked the cops, “Hey, this is my first offense, what does the Judge usually sentence a first time offender? Will the Judge let me off with a warning, or do I have to pay restitution, maybe even do a little community service, or worse, spend a month in the county jail with some probation time?”

“**NO**”, the Law Enforcement Officers said, “the Judge does not give out **ANY** of those types of sentences.”

WELL WHAT sentence does the Judge give out?” he asked. The Police said. “**THE DEATH PENALTY**”

Stunned, the guy said “**Are you crazy - the death penalty?!?!?!!** The death penalty for stealing some stupid old piece of fruit??? You **GOTTA** be kidding!”

“Nope, the Judge only has one sentence for every crime.... the Death Penalty.” **THE END**

By now, some may have figured out this is the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The real crime Adam committed was **NOT** stealing a piece of fruit and eating it. It was Adam **knowingly** choosing to disobey. He effectively said, "I will **NOT** submit and obey **YOU** and **YOUR** rules God - - - - **I AM THE BOSS.**"

Anyone who has had kids or been around kids that refuse to obey will sometimes use the word - **rebellious**. In the Holy Scriptures, it's also called rebellion and the sons of disobedience. Who was the Greatest Rebeler... yeah, it was Lucifer, a "morning star" a very high level Angel. We read in Ezekiel 28:17, “Lucifer, Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.” Lucifer apparently became so impressed with his own beauty, intelligence, power, and position that he began to desire for himself the honor and glory that belonged only to God alone. The sin that corrupted Lucifer was self-generated pride that led to rebellion, to literally trying to pull a coup against **GOD** and taking over. He convinced 1/3 of the angels to also rebel. Lucifer's name was changed to Satan, which means adversary.

The crime that God does **not** like (tolerate) is deliberate outright disobedience, because it is rebellion. A **Coup** is people or a person who try to take over control within their own Army, Team, Church, Business, Family, etc.

Each person must realize that **ANY** crime we commit against God (called sin), from “simple” lying, to “big” crimes we don't like thinking about, we must realize we are **ALL** guilty... plain and simple. In addition, if I think I only did a “small” crime, in God's eyes it is just as terrible as “big” crimes. I can never say “I am not as bad as Adam, or Doug, or Joe or Betty or Sue or...” The sentencing (wages) from **GOD** will be the death penalty – for all eternity. “For all have committed a crime and the sentence for any crime is the eternal death penalty.” The actual verses are at the end of this.

BUT what if the Governor had mailed **you** an official notarized Pardon when you were 5 years old - what would you have done with it? The majority of us would have thought it was some crazy joke and laughed about it saying we would NEVER need any stupid pardon and threw it in the trash. Yet, one day we all did get caught, in our crimes (sins). Suddenly we realize OH MY LORD we are in BIG trouble! Some have a jail house conversion, a foxhole conversion, a hospital conversion, or whatever life situation that causes us to realize we really need major help. Some play church for a while but that rarely lasts if it was not a real conversion (see my story about “My EX is ... HOT”). It is when each one of us truly realizes that we have committed a crime (sin) that **will** get us sentenced with an eternal death penalty from God that will **not** be forgiven by doing community service, paying restitution, saying sorry, giving some tithes, serving some time, or doing a good deed (works), or whatever. NOTHING will get me out of THAT terrible eternal death sentence.

EXCEPT ONE THING ONLY, and that is the amazing glorious Pardon that God orchestrated at the beginning of time and Jesus Christ lovingly fulfilled 2,000 years ago by obeying God and dying on the Cross. **JESUS** freely chose to obey and come to earth to set the captives in sin free... today and for eternity. He wants us to be set free and to have a personal relationship with Him. All of us are a captive to sin - thanks to our Great Great... Gpa Adam, the first human, disobeying we are all born a criminal (sinner) and still commit crimes (sin) against God. We all need to be set free today and most importantly for eternity and the only way is by accepting the eternal gift that Jesus Christ already paid for all of our sins (crimes) by His shed blood on the Cross, His death and God raising Him from the dead, called the Resurrection of Jesus. Otherwise, we are just like Adam, attempting to usurp authority & pull another coup, rebelling and taking over against our Creator - - GOD and worse, for those Born Again, Redeemed, Saved – adopted into His family, His children chose to rebel.

Interestingly Adam was put in “time out” aka kicked out of his home “Garden of Eden” for 930 years (his death) and Eve, and all of his future kids, great grandkids, all the way to us are paying for his “simple” crime!

“The New Testament teaches that sin is the great barrier between men and God. Propitiation is a two-part act that involves appeasing the wrath of an offended person and being reconciled to him. The necessity of appeasing God is something many religions have in common. In ancient pagan religions, as well as in many religions today, the idea is taught that man appeases God by offering various gifts or sacrifices. However, the Bible teaches that God Himself has provided the only means through which His wrath can be appeased and sinful man can be reconciled to Him. In the New Testament, the act of propitiation always refers to the work of God and not the sacrifices or gifts offered by man. The reason for this is that man is totally incapable of satisfying God’s justice except by spending eternity in hell. There is no service, sacrifice, or gift that man can offer that will appease the holy wrath of God or satisfy His perfect justice. The only satisfaction, or propitiation, that could be acceptable to God and that could reconcile man to Him had to be made by God. For this reason God the Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world in human flesh to be the perfect sacrifice for sin and make atonement or “propitiation for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:17).” From “Got Questions”

- 1) “For everyone has sinned; we **ALL** fall short of God’s glorious standard.” Romans 3:23
- 2) “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23
- 3) “That if you confess with your mouth, “**Jesus is Lord**,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9
- 4) “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16
- 5) “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:17