



## Week 1

# Just Another Day In Paradise

Ever have a Martha moment? Not the Martha from the Bible but the real Martha, Martha Stewart. Have you found yourself fixating on ways to improve your house, your kids, your husband? That's a Martha moment. It isn't that you don't see the value in each of them, you just find yourself wondering if a little craft paper or hand stitching wouldn't make it all that much better. Eve had a Martha moment in the Garden of Eden and set into motion the rest of the story, from Genesis to Revelations.

Eve was created because man was born needing help. God set it up that way. She didn't set foot on the earth or in the garden without knowing that Adam needed her, and then enters in her first and only rule. "You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die." Adam made sure his woman knew just what the rule was. The serpent though, was a silver-tongued, ladies' man; he knew what she was thinking deep down. Girlfriend was living in the Garden of Eden (aka Paradise) and upon the snakes suggestion she thought, "This might could get better, I just might be able to make it a little nicer around here." Her glue gun was already warm.

She grabbed the proverbial apple, made her man a pie with a pretty, perfect golden crust and if there had been Pinterest in her day; my money is on her pinning the recipe up and starting her own domestic empire. We do it too, don't we? Change the pillows, paint the walls, fix our hair and leave Bible studies on his nightstand...

We are Eve. We are Martha. We are sure we can "improve" things. That one part of our nature only demonstrates our desperate need for a Savior. We are so busy trying to fix and beautify everything and everyone else we've forgotten to start with our own hearts. We run around making sure our home's closets are organized but keep the door shut to our heart's closet, the one space we don't want Martha, let alone God, to get a good look at.

That's the nature of sin at work within us. Isn't it amazing and awesome that we have a Savior available to rescue us from our Martha loving selves? We have a Savior ready and willing to come in and offer grace right where our own hearts were about to mod podge some Bible pages on top and call it good. Where there was first sin there was a Savior, too. God had it all planned out before time began. Read on!

Challenge: Our day's don't resemble Paradise much anymore, the curse took care of that, but we still are capable of taking a very good thing and thinking it needs a little something. Grab an apple this week, take a bite. It's sweet and sour taste is delightful, it is very pretty. Can't you just hear the serpent whispering to Eve, "You most certainly will not die." Eve couldn't make it work and the truth is we would botch it up too, given half a chance.

Savor the taste; understand that Eve disobeyed one rule! That's all it took. Enjoy the apple, not because it is delicious but because a Savior has come. Martha moments and all, God has extended His merciful grace to you and I. Eat it and enjoy. No you don't live in Paradise but you can one day.

"The Law came in so that the transgression would increase: but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."

Romans 5:20