

Let's Make a Deal

Welcome

Intro: Way back, before reality TV, gameshows were a big hit. One of the most popular Game shows was **Let's Make a Deal**(logo), so popular that it is still on TV today. Audience members would dress in these ridiculous costumes, as if it were Halloween. If chosen, the audience member would become a trader. In most cases, a trader would be offered something of value and given a choice of whether to keep what they have or trade, make a deal, and exchange it for a different item. However, the other item would be behind a curtain or hidden from the trader. So, it was a gamble. Do I keep what I have or trade, make a deal and hope my new prize will be better. Sometimes contestants would choose the mystery prize and get a **zonk (Zone logo)** prize, something of no real value.

You guys want to play? God's your host and this is what He is offering:

- A **tropical paradise**, all-inclusive resort, full of delicious fruit trees and harmless wild animals and best of all you never have to leave.
- A **healthy**, strong, and beautiful **body**, and equally perfect spouse, and clothes are optional
- An **innocent mind and childlike** joy, delight, laughter, peace, love, and security.
- **Dominion**, you are going to be in charge. You will rule over God's garden paradise and help extend Eden to the ends of the world.
- **Divine companionship and help**. You will not be here alone. God will be with you to provide the wisdom and resources you need every step of the way.

Or, you can take whatever is behind door number three? No one would ever make such a bad decision. That is exactly what Adam and Eve did. Satan convinced them that behind door number three was what they had always wanted. Satan convinced them, God is trying to pull a fast one over on you. God wants you to settle. God does not want you to discover, you are just like God and you do not have to accept His rule over your life and over creation.

- Satan is a supernatural being, created by God, who served God until he rebelled.
- He rebelled against God's plan to create Earth, create mankind in his image, and allow man, rather than Satan, to rule over His new creation. Satan wanted to rule and was jealous of Adam and Eve and set out to destroy them.
- The Devil is a liar and when Adam and Eve believed his lie, followed Satan in his rebellion, and declared independence paradise was lost. They were zonked. (Zonk)

Don't be zonked!

- We must all choose between dependence or independence, life or death, blessings or curses. God pleads with us, choose life!
- **John 10:10**, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
- Satan, Paul called him (2 Cor 4:4) the God of this world, immediately began to steal, kill and destroy.
- **Genesis 6:1-8**, He actually got a whole group of divine beings, to join in his rebellion, they impregnated women and demi-gods were born, the world was full of rebellion and violence. God decided to judge the world and start over with Noah.

- **Genesis 11**, Let's make a deal. I know that last deal did not work out the way we hoped so here is what we can do. Let's rebuild the Garden of Eden and the mountain of God. If he is going to throw us out of his garden, we will build our own. **Genesis 11:1-9**
- **Deuteronomy 32:8-9**, "When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court.⁹ "For the people of Israel belong to the LORD; Jacob is his special possession."

This was God's way of saying, if you are rejecting me and want to follow these other Gods, I will not stop you. I'll give you what you want and allow you to experience the consequences of your foolishness.

Please keep in mind:

- You are created by God in His image to be like Him
- God has invited us to rule and reign with Him over all creation
- God loves you, and gave His Son Jesus for you, in order to redeem all that was lost
- One day we will be back in paradise, with Jesus, forever

How can we have a Mountain Top Experience?

Psalm 24:1-6

You cannot have the kingdom without the king!

Explain: They believed they could build their own mountain. They could reach up to heaven. They wanted the kingdom without the King. They wanted paradise without God. When we chose independence, we end up with Hell not heaven.

Illustrate: **Luke 15**, Prodigal

We all have to be careful about this right? We can come to church, believe in Jesus and yet, if we are not careful, live a very independent life.

- **1 Samuel 13:7-14**
- **2 Samuel 11:1-5**
- **2 Samuel 12:1-10**

Matthew 5- Humility, brokenness, surrender, dependence. Humble dependence

Apply: Are you independent?

If we are going up the mountain, we have to let Jesus lead us there!

Invitation