

## Sermon Genesis Chapter 3 – It Started Here

Background: We've been looking at Christ being tempted in the wilderness. The approach the devil takes to try and trick him and how Jesus successfully defeats him using the word and the power of the Holy Spirit to wait on God by faith. We looked at 1 John which outlines the love of the world is composed of the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

This week, we go back to the beginning, where it all started. The Garden of Eden. We can try this again, and this time instead of being tricked out of our place and position, we can stand in the favor of God.

Key Points:

- Don't fall for the tricks.
- When you screw up, don't run away from God....run to Him.
- You can go after the right thing the wrong way.
- Know and answer the key questions.
- You can't hide from His love.
- It's good to know He'll be there if ever you fall; better to know that you don't have to fall at all.

**Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**

The nature of the serpent was he is crafty. So, he is by nature trying to trick you.

The trick is to challenge the Word of God by asking a question to raise doubt.

Goes to the woman with the question. Did God say you can't eat of every tree? He just twisted it. God said you can eat of every tree (except two). He sifts the focus by rephrasing it to sound like you can't do what God says you can. Puts a negative spin on it.

**<sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup> But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.**

She almost quotes this perfectly, however, she added it to it. She added something to the Word. I don't see where God said you can't touch it.

Logically, this makes sense. If He said don't eat it, it just makes sense that you shouldn't touch it either. Why take the chance, just stay away from that tree.

While this makes logical sense to me, Eve just introduced false doctrine....it started here.

**<sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup> For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**

The trick is being played out as the trap is being set. He directly contradicts what God says about the judgement for disobeying. God says you will die, but I say you won't. God is wrong about that.

God has not changed but we have. The same things He warned them about back then, still apply today...we are just believing a lie that says God is wrong about that and we are right...the lie started here. What used to be right...is wrong.....and that ain't right.

He adds some truth to appeal to her logic. When you eat, your eyes will be opened. Things will be revealed to you. You will be like gods and gain knowledge. He makes it seem that God doesn't want us to know these things or be like Him. The problem is he doesn't present the entire truth.

Trying to cause doubt in the word of God, the provision of God, the goodness of God; and not wait and trust in God. Get it now and don't wait.

**<sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.**

This is clearly outlined in 1 John 2. We see the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. She fell to these temptations and obeyed the serpent rather than God. She didn't wait on God.

**<sup>7</sup> And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.**

The result, their eyes were opened...the devil was correct about that. They found out they were naked...so they got some revelation. They also found out they had done evil and tried to cover up and hide their sins.

The first cover up. Why, because they realized they messed up, fear, didn't want to get caught, embarrassed, etc. It started here.

God walking in the garden looking for them. Why?

Knowing what we know today, if you were in their position, how would you respond? Would you hide and try and cover it up, or seek out God?

Notice....they didn't see Him, they heard His voice. When you hear His voice after you've done wrong, how do you respond? After you hear the word, how do you respond? You should be drawn to Him rather than hiding from Him.

**<sup>9</sup> And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? <sup>10</sup> And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. <sup>11</sup> And he said, Who told**

**thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?**

God asks questions of Adam who was responsible, even though it was Eve that introduced this. The question asked is still relevant today. Where are you?

Application. God already knew where Adam was. He doesn't ask the question for information, instead it is for self-reflection and revelation. God already knows where you are. Do you know where you are in relation to Him?

- Where are you in relation with God?
- Let's drill down further, where are you in your present situation?

Adam's response: I heard you coming, I heard your voice, and I was afraid. Fear will cause you to have the wrong response to your situation.

Why would Adam be afraid? Because he knew he messed up and was naked. Fear will cause you to hide from God.

Second question, who told you this about yourself? You were okay with your condition when we last met, who told you that you were wrong?

- God was okay with Adam's condition, but God may still be asking us the same question today.
- Who told you you were not worth saving?
- Who told you you were not good enough?
- Who told you you could never be great?
- Who told you you were messed up?
- If God is okay with you, why would you listen to someone else's opinion about you.

Third question, have you eaten from the tree I told you not to eat from?

God already knows the answer, but this question seeks to help Adam repent and take responsibility.

**<sup>12</sup> And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. <sup>13</sup> And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.**

He confesses, but he doesn't take responsibility. He blames his wife and adds that it is God's fault all this happened. Still today, people refuse to take responsibility and will blame others for why they are in the situation they are in. First family drama, started here.

The question is applicable to each of us. What is this you have done? Her response, the serpent tricked me and I ate. I'm sorry but it wasn't really my fault.

Notice, the questions are necessary in order to help us confess and come out of hiding. Hiding out of fear will always bring adverse consequences in your relationship with God. Sin and disobedience separates us from God. Without the questions, they would still be hiding from Him.

**<sup>14</sup> And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

Judgement follows from God. Serpent is cursed because of what he did. There will be hatred between the offspring of the serpent and the offspring of the woman.

In other words, the serpent will only bruise the offspring's heel, but the off-spring will bruise his head. The seed of the woman (Christ) will deliver the greater blow.

**<sup>16</sup> Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.**

Curse on the woman, pain in childbirth and difficulty in relationship. Under the man since she acted without his guidance before. Why women are the way they are....started here.

**<sup>17</sup> And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; <sup>18</sup> Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; <sup>19</sup> In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

Adam cursed, but why? Life just got a lot harder for him/us.

- He listened to his wife and obeyed her rather than God. Be careful guys.
- He will have to work hard for his meals now. Thorns will have to be dealt with that will be mixed in with his progress. It will be in vain as death will come.

**<sup>20</sup> And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup> Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.**

What they used to cover up their sins was not sufficient. God has to provide a proper covering. We cannot cover up our sins. Fear keeps us from properly repenting from our sins by seeking God's solution.

Hebrews 9:22

**<sup>22</sup> And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: <sup>23</sup> Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.**

**24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.**

As a result of the sin, there is forgiveness but consequences.

Application Time: Why should we care. So what? Because the devil uses the same tactics today on us.

Where does the discussion and trick questions come from today?

- I haven't seen any talking serpents swing by lately, but I have had a conversation which tried to cast doubt on my faith.
- The voice I hear comes to my mind and from other agents being used by the devil. It still starts here today!

What would Jesus have said and done if He were in the garden having this conversation?

- He would have correctly repeated what God said, not taken the fruit, and told him to bounce.
- We should do what Jesus would do....and did!

When you make a mistake what do you hide behind today? What things in the garden are hiding places and what man-made things do we use to cover up?

- Relationship – Adam could hide behind his relationships justify his sin
- Providence – he could hide behind what God had already provided and never repent or admit he was wrong
- Job, work – he could hide behind his work or job to take his mind off his sin
- Home – we can hide out at home or in our room
- Church – we can cover up by using the church
- Doctrine – we can even use the word in a manner that helps us cover up or justify our mistake
- Other man-made hiding places – politics, TV, music, etc.

God is not walking through our living room, so where and how do we hear His voice?

- Through the word, Holy Spirit, others who are connected to the Father

How can we keep from getting tricked and losing the blessings He has for us? How can I win and not lose anymore? Follow the steps. Trying harder will not work for now.

- Don't fall for the tricks.
- When you screw up, don't run away from God....run to Him.
- You can go after the right thing the wrong way.
- Know and answer the key questions.
- You can't hide from His love.
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