

Walking through HIStory

Week 2 - The Fall

Last week - In the BEGINNING...

DAY 1: When All of Life Changed

1. Two weeks ago we looked at the wonder of creation, God's indescribable gift to humanity. Creation is a gift filled with majesty and beauty, and prompted by God's sheer delight in His newly formed creatures, Adam and Eve, along with all of us! But scarcely two chapters into the grand story, we ran the bus off the cliff, with staggering consequences.

2. Genesis 3 introduces us to the origins of evil. Satan, a creature, an angel, but a fallen angel led a rebellion against God that found its purpose in derailing the crown of God's creation--human beings. He started with Adam and Eve, has continued this same purpose with everyone, ever since! Let's look at Satan's tactics...

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent (Satan in disguise) was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

3. What do you think Satan was trying to undermine, in v. 1?

4. What was crafty about Satan's approach? (3:1, 4-5)

- What did he understate? _____
- What did he over-promise? _____
- What lies did he state? _____

3. Satan's approach **confused** Eve. Contrast what she said in 3:2-3 with what God actually told Adam and Eve in Genesis 1 and 2:

*Genesis 1:29 Then God said, "I give you **every** seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and **every tree** that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."*

*Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are **free** to eat from **any** tree in the garden;¹⁷ but you must not eat from **the** tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you **eat** of it you will surely die."*

4. The heart of the temptation was to become the one who decided what was good or evil. It was the choice to rule themselves, according to their own standards.

5. Think of every reason you can as to why Eve believed Satan and rebelled against God. If you need some help, think about what motivates you to do something you know you shouldn't do...

DAY 2: The Consequences of Sin Begin...

1. Yesterday we saw the roots of how sin began. Put a check next to the things that would have "made sense" to you if you had been in Eve's and Adam's place:

___ "This can't be *thaaat* bad."

___ "No one will ever know."

___ "What could be so wrong with doing _____?"

___ "Why wouldn't God let us do that?"

___ "We can do what we want as long as we don't hurt anyone."

___ "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas."

Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

2. What three conclusions did Eve draw from the fruit she saw and Satan's words?

3. Where did Eve go wrong?

4. Let's look at the consequences that began almost immediately and have lingered ever since...

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. ⁸ 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."

3. Did the enlightenment promised by Satan occur?

4. How did the relationship between man and woman change?

5. How did the relationship between God and man change?

6. Underline any of the words you think became new in Adam and Eve's relationship with each other and with God: Fear, Shame, Guilt, Mistrust, Hiding, Alienation. Blame, Conflict, "Not my problem," "I can take care of my problems. I don't need you or God."

7. What's your biggest takeaway from today's devotional?

DAY 3: Living in a FALLEN World

1. Trying to understand the world we live in can be very confusing. Why? Because we see the beauty and wonder of Genesis 1 and 2 all around us, while at the same time we have to face and live the consequences of Genesis 3.

2. Life in the Garden of Eden end by the end of Genesis 3. Man's rebellion against God, and his arrogant approach to God and to others is what brings "hell on earth." Satan is all too ready to tempt us in all the wrong directions, while making those wrong directions seem "reasonable."

3. If God left Adam and Eve and all of us in the Garden of Eden, we would have made a mess of things, never coming to understand our own culpability and responsibility in making messes. Hell is that place where people who don't need God or others, whose lives would have been "better off" had God or people done what they were "supposed to do," will live.

4. To do everything possible to avert that crisis, for as many people as possible, God needed to act! Eden would never wake people from their spiritual or moral slumber. It only happens thru trouble, and God's good work in us when trouble hits! Therefore, we must live in a world other than Paradise. Theologians call this a "fallen world." Here in the land of trouble and sometimes misery is there any hope of arrogant people ever seeing their need for God?

5. God first addresses Satan.

Genesis 3:14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

6. What does God want us to remember when we see a snake? (3:14)

7. "Enmity" means "hatred." Satan and his demons will be at war with Eve and all her offspring, meaning humanity. You have an enemy who is out to destroy you! -- Today!

8. The last part of 3:15 gives another promise: "...*he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*"

a. The "he", who will one day be the offspring of Eve is Jesus Christ. What does God promise Satan here?

b. What do you think God means that Satan will strike his (Jesus, the Messiah) heel?

c. Did you ever play a game (or make a big decision) where you thought you had made the perfect move to secure your win, only to discover that the very move (or decision) you made brought about your defeat? This is what will happen to Satan at the cross of Christ!

9. Pray that today, you will resist Satan's temptations!

DAY 4: Life as a Fallen Woman

1. Life looks like it ought to "work" just fine. God made us to find our greatest love and importance in God. That would enable us to freely give love and importance to the people in our lives, reflecting what God had done for us. At the fall, that was lost.

2. Since then we assume that our needs can be met (1) by others, (2) through our efforts, (3) God not "really" needed, and (4) People "ought" to cooperate in that endeavor to make us feel loved and needed. As long as those assumptions, buried deep in our hearts, remain lodged in place, we'll make a mess of our relationships!

3. Something must be done!!! Well, God's "on it." Today we'll see that the "fallen" world God created for women is the "perfect" world needed to get our attention and change us!

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

4. God changed the world of a woman in three significant ways.

a. "Pain in childbearing"

This is not just bad news for mothers delivering babies. The Hebrew word for childbearing is the same term we use for "raising" kids. As she raises her children there will be plenty of times of joy, but in addition, there will be enough times of heart-break that her broken heart *should* point her back to God as her greatest source of love and importance.

b. "...With pain you will give birth..."

This is the visual and painful reminder of the world in which we live. Every time a woman gives birth to a child, the world should remember that our deepest needs can only be met in God.

c. "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

The Hebrew word for "desire" means--the desire to control. In your marriage (and with overlap into your major relationships), you'll find the urge to "control" what's going on.

The second part of the promise says that you won't be able to control things as you'd like. That will be very frustrating to you.

5. What is God saying to women? He has made you to be extraordinary in relating to people, but you will find this a very painful and frustrating endeavor--left to your own devices, and efforts!

6. It is only in *this kind of world* that a woman, when confronted by her painful relationships will stop and reflect: "Am I really looking to God to feel loved and special, or am I really trusting my ability to get others to love me and appreciate me as I think I need?"

7. Use the rest of the space on this page to jot down your thoughts from today's devotional.

DAY 5: Living in a Fallen World as a Man

1. If men are left to themselves, they will use God and use people to feel good about themselves. They'll relate, not to reflect God's strong and gracious love, but in order to feel important. Messes are inevitable.

2. God went to work, immediately! What is the world in which men live? What is it like? What is it meant to do?

Genesis 3:17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

3. Is this just bad news for farmers, or do you think there is something here that every man will face?

4. Men foolishly believe that (1) We don't need God (2) We can manage our life just fine (3) We can feel important through our own efforts, and (4) Others should cooperate with that agenda. We may not think these thoughts directly, but they are lodged deep in the human heart, and rumble along, driving and directing us every day, often without even knowing it's going on.

5. From God's perspective, man's plan CANNOT work! It must not work, or else man will bring a lot of pain to the people he claims to love. So, God has "rigged" the world "against" us.

6. Every man should experience a sense of futility, frustration and failure. These are not "problems" to solve. They are meant to awaken us to our self-destructive drive.

7. What struck you most from Genesis 3:17-19?

8. How do you see God using the frustrations you face?

9. We often get mad at God when He allows troubles, when in fact, He may be allowing or even bringing troubles our way for our redemptive purpose! When was the last time you got mad at Him for not doing what you wanted?

10. No one likes to feel frustrated or like a failure. I don't. But that is not only *reality*, but the *necessary* pathway to changing us! What strikes you about that?

11. As we finish our week, you've seen the evident goodness of God in Genesis 1 and 2. But consider, you've also seen the goodness of God in the last part of Genesis 3! He will not leave us to ourselves! He loves us too much!