

Genesis 3 – The Sin of Man

Romans 5:12 “Sin came into the world through one man and death through sin.”

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

-Let those two statements from God’s Word sink in this morning.-

❖ Recap

- **Genesis 1** – God created all things from nothing. Speaking them into existence. Saying it was good.
- **Genesis 2** – A more detailed account of the creation of man and woman.
 - **We get a clear view on certain fundamental beliefs the children of God should share.**
 - God is our creator... And we are created in His image to reflect this image in creation.
 - God is the creator of all mankind from one man... meaning there is one race... human.
 - **God is the provider of everything thing for man...**
 - ◆ from the smallest of bacteria to the grandest invention. Be Generous!
 - **God created man and woman for each other...**
 - ◆ Giving us the first marriage b/w a man and woman... What God joins... let no man separate.
 - God created man to rule and work and be creative
 - God set a limit... reminding man that He is God... and He tells them nne thing they can not do.

❖ Introduction

- **Genesis 3... in a similar way as 1 and 2... answers some of life’s biggest question**
 - One being... why is there so much evil in the world?
 - Why do we struggle with right and wrong so often?
 - Why do people die? Plus many more...
- **Genesis 3 is also very mysterious...**
 - We know for sure it is has symbolism...
 - **At the same time... we can’t consider all of it symbolic...**
 - **Whereas we know the God, the man, and the woman are literal characters...**
 - The snake on the other hand... represents the Devil if you consider
 - What Jesus said about him and what the book of Revelation says about him...
 - **Then there is the matter of the Judgment’s that God levies on the snake, woman and man**
 - What is symbolic and what is literal?
- **Then there is one more possibility...**
 - That some things have dual meanings... meaning one thing literally and another symbolically...
 - With that being said... we will do our best here today... And I will not be so bold...
 - As to say I have all the answers... (But I think that is ok... there are certain things we won’t know)

❖ Outline (Introduce the 8 Main Characters of Genesis 3)

- 1) Man’s Temptation
- 2) Man’s Sin
- 3) Man’s Shame
- 4) God’s Judgment
- 5) God’s Mercy

❖ Pray

❖ Introducing the 8 Main Characters

➤ 1) The Garden of Eden

- **The word Eden means luxury, or delight.**
 - We get a clear indication of what this garden must have been like.
 - A place created by God for man to enjoy and to find pleasure in.
 - God is not a God that is against pleasure... He created it... in abundance...
- **This Garden was the place God planted for man to live...**
 - But we see God was also here... we read of Him walking in the midst of the garden
 - This seemed to be a frequent event...
- **It is also likely that other heavenly beings were seen there as well...**
 - Later in Gen 3 God will place two Cherubs... (Mighty heavenly creatures) to guard the entrance
- **The garden of Eden is the place where God and man dwelt...**
 - As we look forward to our future home...
 - We see this again... We see a place where God and man will dwell together
 - In a sense we would say we look forward to the second Eden

➤ 2) God (Elohim)

- Genesis 1 introduces God by this name... Elohim... a generic name for God
- it is also used in reference to false gods and even heavenly beings
- In Genesis 1 God is seen as the God of all creation...

➤ 3) The Lord God

- We begin to see God in a more personal way in Genesis 2...
- **As He is creating man... we are introduced to God being also called Yahweh....**
 - So in our English version we get... "The Lord God"
 - And this distinguishes this God... as a personal God for Adam and Eve
 - **This name Yahweh is the name that Moses will be given....**
 - ◆ When He asks God... what should I tell them your name is...
 - ◆ And He replies **"I am that I am"**
- **The Lord God was a perfect title indicating a closeness and relationship of God with man...**
 - Of the ten times God is mentioned in ch 2.... He is referred to as the Lord God
- **This is Very Important:**
 - This is the name Adam and Eve know God as... The Lord God...
 - This is especially important when the scene opens in ch 3... God is referred to as the Lord God
 - But the serpent refers to God as Elohim... as God... not as the Lord God
 - And Eve will respond in like manner when she speaks of Him
 - And early indication that this relational loving view of God is being twisted already

➤ 4) The Serpent

- **This is certainly the devil... Satan... Lucifer... the dragon of Revelation... the accuser of man**
 - **Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—**
- **It is possible that he spoke through a serpent...**
 - (Balaam's donkey spoke to him)
 - (Jesus cast demons into pigs)
 - This could have been an actual serpent like creature...
 - ◆ the text points out he was a beast of the field
- **It is also possible that Eve saw Lucifer... a mighty cherub... created by God gloriously...**
 - Considered one of the Sons of God in his creation...
 - And it would explain why she was speaking to him

- And why the text never mentions that this was shocking...
- The writer may have been using this language to describe him

➤ 5) The Woman

- This is the actual woman named Eve... the actual Mother of all mankind

➤ 6) The Man

- This is the actual man Adam... the Father of all Mankind

➤ 7) The Tree of Life

- This is a tree mentioned numerous times in the Bible...
- A tree that is given by God for his beings to enjoy... and will allow them to live forever...
- This is likely a literal tree... there is also a possibility of this being symbolic...

➤ 8) The Tree of the Knowledge of God and Evil

- Here we see man's test. God sets the tree in the garden... and I believe it was a test.
- This too is likely an actual tree although symbolism is a possibility...
- **And the fruit of this tree could open the eyes of the person who took it...**
 - Revealing to them the nature of good and evil

❖ 1) Man's Temptation

- Genesis 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"
² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 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."

➤ Satan comes along to deceive Eve....

- Notice... although God places the tree in the garden... and it is there likely as a test...
- **God does not do the tempting and never does...**
 - James 1:13-14 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
 - ◆ This perfectly describes what happens here in the garden with Adam and Eve
- **He does allow the test... but He never tempts...**
- **He only warns... saying these exact Words**
 - Genesis 2:16-17 ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
 - We see God cares for Adam and Eve... and He gives them a life sustaining commandment
 - ◆ Don't eat or you will die...
- **God's Commands are never to harm us or hold us back...**
 - They are always here to give us life and true freedom
 - Psalm 19: 7-9 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
 - ◆ Eve needed to believe this

➤ Satan's Deceit

▪ 1) He asks a very sinister question...

- Did God actually say? Begins by casting shade on the Words of God...
 - ◆ Not only this... but he does not refer to Him as the Lord God... but rather... as God

- **2) His question was condescending**
 - Here we see him sort of accusing God of limiting their resources...
 - ◆ To Eve he says... **God really said you can't eat of any of the trees?**
 - ◆ Yet God had only said there was one tree they couldn't eat from.
- **3) Eve's answer was incorrect...**
 - She claimed she wasn't allowed to eat from the tree... **NOR even touch it**
 - But we do not see that recorded... so it likely was an exaggeration of the command...
 - ◆ A legalism if you would... (Be careful about legalism church!)
 - ◆ And in Eve's answer... she referred to the personal Lord God... simply as God
- **4) Satan tempts Eve with another option**
 - He contradicts God... yet... much of what he says is true...
 - He says you will not surely die (as you will see... Eve did not die physically immediately)
 - He says God is holding back on you... He knows your eyes will be opened...
- **5) Satan Tempts Eve with God-Like status**
 - Again... this is not an outright lie... He says: You will be like God
 - Knowing good and Evil – The deceiver comes deceiving... **showing Eve there is another way**

❖ 2) Man's Sin

- **Genesis 5:6-7 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.**
- **The Woman's Desire Overtakes Her Love for God's Command**
 - She heard what the Deceiver was saying... she **agreed** with him...
 - The tree did look good for food... it was a **delight** to the eyes...
 - And... it also had something else... It would make her **wise**...
 - **Eve desired to usurp the authority of God in her life... and in a sense... be a god herself...**
 - This is her temptation... to be like God... but not in a God honoring way
 - She wanted to do an end run... she wanted to take what was not yet given to her
 - God had made her in His image... but she wanted more...
 - **In her sin... she also gave some to her husband...**
 - Finally we see Adam in this scene... Where had he been this whole time?
 - What had he been doing? Nothing!... watching TV? Hunting? Playing?
 - He was not being diligent and reminding his wife of God's commands...
 - He was completely complicit in this sin... He was not just an accomplice...
 - He was an actor in this crime
- **The Sad Results of their Desire...**
 - In the Hebrew text... (you cant really see it in the English) but we have a play on words...
 - **Here Eve desired to be wise... to be WISE... to be God like! So they take and eat...**
 - And their eyes are opened!... OH what glory this will be... God like.... YET!
 - They knew they were naked!
 - **In their desire to be wise and God-like... they instead... are naked... creatures... unclothed**
 - I believe there is so much more than Physical nakedness in mind here...
 - The man and woman had been deceived! Satan was correct... but not in the way they thought
 - **This is the nature of sin.... Offering one thing... yet delivering something completely different**
 - ◆ Offering freedom but producing slavery...
 - ◆ **Like young Edmund in the Chronicles of Narnia... The Satan figure...**

- The Queen... gives Enchanted Turkish Delight to him...
- and the more he eats the more he wants...Shoveling it down without constraint
- And in eating he betrays his family to her and enslaves himself to the queen...
- **The Deceitfulness of Sin betrays us all...** The author of Hebrews warns us...
 - **Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**
 - **Charles Spurgeon in his sermon on this verse... expounds on the deceitfulness of sin...**
 - Sin is the greatest evil in the universe... It is the parent of all other ills
 - And we are sadly disposed to sin and its great influence over us
 - Even Eve in her perfection was not strong enough to flee from the temptation
 - **It deceives us in how it approaches us**
 - ◆ It never uncovers itself to show its hideous nature until it is too late
 - ◆ Instead it comes to us in subtle and advantageous ways
 - Shouldn't we at least consider this pleasure
 - **It usually begins as nothing more than a fantasy... a suggestion**
 - **It is so sinister that it comes to us at times as a repulsion of another sin**
 - ◆ In our hatred over one sin... the pendulum swings too far the other way
 - ◆ Falling into some sort of legalism... or overindulgence...
 - ◆ The tax collector becomes a Pharisee... shutting one gate opens another...
 - **Sin does not put itself as it is.... For eve... the temptation was not...**
 - ◆ Overthrow God in your life... instead... it was... Become wise...
- **Their Sin did not manifest itself fully in the temptation... It would take years to see all its ugliness**
 - This one act... is THE act that led to her Oldest son rising up and murdering her beautiful son Abel
 - Sin does not just affect you... it affects even your children...
 - **How afraid I am of this today... I am sorry... never thinking at the time**
 - And it continues till this day... Every imaginable evil you could think of... that you have heard of...
 - It was birthed that day in Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed the LIFE giving command of God
 - **Like the Prodigal Son... Sin promised him pleasure, food, much drink and friends...**
 - Yet it left him at a feed trough eating slop surrounded by pigs

❖ 3) Man's Shame

- **Genesis 8-13 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."**
- **Adam and Eve experienced such open and personal fellowship with God...**
- **The serpent promised they would be like God...**
 - Instead we see... they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God
 - This is not what he had promised them...
- **God questions Adam... because Adam... as the man... was the responsible party...**
 - And although we see Eve speaking with the serpent... and giving to her husband...
 - Adam took and ate and we do not see him making an objection...
- **Yet... instead of taking responsibility... Adam says...**
 - The woman YOU gave me... she gave me the fruit of the tree...

- **Then God asks the Woman... what have you done?**
 - And the Woman blames the Serpent... saying he deceived her....
- **Now.... Notice a few things...**
 - I believe the temptation made **sense** to them... I do not think they realized the fullness of their sin
 - But... God had given them a command... He had given them likely hundreds of other trees...
 - And set only one off limits... but it seemed right to them to take it...
 - And God had allowed them to eat of all these trees... one more tree couldn't hurt right?
 - **But they fully disobeyed the clear command of God... and it brought them shame...**
- **Blame is the daughter of sin...**
 - How often do we do people do this... When confronted about a certain sin...
 - They instantly make excuses don't they? We all know people that do this don't we?
 - **Let me ask you this question: When I say... People makes excuses for their sins...**
 - Can you think of someone who does this? How many thought of themselves first?
 - Why do you not think of yourself first?
 - ◆ **Oh... sin in all its splendor! Our hearts and minds betray us!**

❖ 4) God's Judgment

- **Genesis 3:14-19** The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." ¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
- **There are 4 Judgments here... 2 curses...**
 - **To the Serpent cursed**
 - Here it seems that God is cursing an actual creature... what we would know as a snake
 - But it is very possible there is a double meaning here... to a snake... and to Satan
 - It would crawl on it's belly all its days... and there would be hostility b/w the snake and man
 - The snake would bruise the heel of the man...
 - But the man would bruise the head of the snake... **(The same word is used for bruise)**
 - **To the Woman**
 - Much of her joy was to be her children... and this remained...
 - But in bringing them into this world... it would be done in much pain...
 - Also... **Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."**
 - ◆ There is some debate as to the actual meaning of this verse...
 - ◆ **But it does seem to point to the woman wanting the role of her husband...**
 - Although some believe it means... she will desire a husband...
 - But... given the contraction "but"... it seems to be a desire for his role... (Contrary)
 - ◆ **But... she would not get that... rather... he would rule over her...**
 - If we look throughout history...
 - We know this last part has come true... in many many cruel ways...
 - God did not give Adam the right to Rule his wife... only to be the head...to lead
 - Taken from his side to be nurtured... **but sin has consequences...**

- **To Adam**
 - Instead of tilling and working the ground in joy and likely without
 - In Pain he would eat from it...
- **To the Earth**
 - It would be cursed because of Adam... It would grow thorns and thistles...
 - He would now have to sweat to produce bread from the ground...
 - The enjoyment of work would be removed and replaced with difficulty...
- **The Death Sentence:**
 - **And Although they did not die physically the day they took of that fruit...**
 - ◆ They did die spiritually... their fellowship with God was broken...
 - ◆ And as a result... they would also die physically...
 - ◆ He would work the ground that he was made from... and then return to it...

❖ 5) God's Mercy

- ²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. ²²Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.
- **The Serpent was partly right...**
 - **Man had become like one of them...**
 - When He says "One of us"... He is not just speaking within the Godhead...
 - But also to the Sons of God... the Heavenly beings He had created...
 - **So God casts them out of the Garden of Luxury and Delight... Eden...**
 - And He sets up two Cherubs... with flaming swords to keep man from coming back
 - As a reminder at that time... of what they had lost...
 - Driven away from the Tree of Life... the Source of Life... which is God Himself
 - Yet there is Hope!
- **Their would be a Reversal of Sin in Jesus Christ**
 - God knew this day was coming... He had planned for it... Before He created the earth He planned
 - **Within the Curse on the snake... there is what is widely considered the first prophecy...**
 - **I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."**
 - ◆ At first look... we may not see it... But God often uses mystery in His prophecy
 - **There would be Hostility b/w Satan and the woman and her offspring...**
 - ◆ We see there is hostility b/w groups of people from Eve...
 - and some group representing the serpent...
 - ◆ But the language changes from "seed" which can represent many...
 - To one seed... "He"... used in the singular...
 - **Our understanding is that this seed is in reference to Jesus Christ...**
 - ◆ And in reference to Satan himself.
 - **On the cross we see satan striking a fatal blow to this singular seed (Jesus) of the woman...**
 - ◆ Along with Satan's children... they condemned Jesus to death...
 - ◆ Satan continuing his deception through his children... Shouting crucify Him...
 - **Yet... in this death blow to the heel of Jesus Christ...**
 - ◆ Jesus was victorious... In His death He struck the head of the serpent...

- ◆ Delivering a truly fatal blow...
- ◆ In defeat there was victory...
- **Jesus gave up his life to ransom mankind from sin and death...**
- **From the Day of their removal from Eden...**
 - God put his plan in motion to redeem mankind and restore them to fellowship with him
- **Even the Skins God made for the man and woman...Pointed to sacrifice for sin...**
 - ◆ Something shed its blood to cover the man and woman's nakedness and sin
 - ◆ Although in Adam... Sin and death came into mankind...
- **Many are Righteous in Jesus**
 - Romans 5:17 death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.
- **There is Forgiveness in God**
 - Psalm 32:1-2 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,

❖ Invitation

- **Adam and Eve Experienced Shame and Death... But God is a God of Mercy...**
 - And He has created an avenue for you to be saved from the effects of sin and death...
 - John 6:28-29 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."
 - Do you believe? If you have believed... Do you continue believing?