

Subject: *Sin in God's Garden – Part 3*

Scripture: *Genesis 3:1-13*

Genesis 3 is a pivotal chapter in the Bible. Life on earth has never been what it was when God first created it. Everything we see wrong in the world today can be traced back to what happened in Genesis 3. We have already looked at the tempter (Satan) and the temptation. In this message we are going to consider the tragedy of sin and the trouble it brought on Adam and Eve and the whole world.

1. THE TRAGEDY

The tragedy was Adam and Eve gave in to temptation and sinned against God. What were the steps that led to their tragic fall?

- A. They doubted God's goodness
- B. They disregarded God's warning
- C. They desired God's wisdom
- D. They disobeyed God's command

They challenged God's authority and willfully disobeyed His clear command. Sin is basically our rebellion against God and taking over the control of our own life.

1 John 3:4 *Sin is the transgression of the law.*

God has the authority to tell us what to do and what not to do. In Genesis 3:6, we see the tragedy unfold. Eve saw that the tree was good for food; it was pleasant to the eyes; and it was a tree to be desired to make one wise. These are the things the world offers us today:

1 John 2:15-16¹⁵ *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

- The lust of the flesh (“good for food”)
- The lust of the eyes (“pleasant to the eyes”)
- The pride of life (“tree to be desired to make one wise”)

The tragedy continued to unfold. Eve gave to her husband with her, and he ate (vs. 6). People rarely sin alone. We influence others and they influence us, either for good or bad.

2. THE TROUBLE

Now we see the consequences of sin. An old evangelist John R. Rice preached a message entitled, “All of Satan's Apples Have Worms.” Dr. R. G. Lee used to say, “You can eat the devil's corn if you want to, but he'll choke you on the cob.” Sin has consequences, like night follows day.

- A. Guilt and shame – They lost their innocence and make a covering for their nakedness.
- B. Fear and separation from God – They hid from God’s presence. They were aware of their sin and tried to run from God. But God sought them and called out to Adam, “Where are you?” These were God’s first words to the first sinner. God knew where Adam was, but He wanted Adam to realize where he was.
- C. Shifting blame to avoid responsibility – Adam blamed Eve, and he actually blamed God. Eve blamed the serpent, and the serpent had no one to blame.

Who Is to Blame for Sin?

- 1) God is not to blame for sin – God cannot tempt anyone to sin.
- 2) Satan is not to blame to sin – He deceived and enticed Eve, but did not force her to sin.

2 Corinthians 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

1 Timothy 2:14 *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

- 3) Every person is to blame for his sin

James 1:13-15 ¹³ *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: ¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

What Can We Learn about Temptation and Sin from God’s Garden?

- 1) Don’t question God’s goodness – Don’t entertain negative thoughts about God. Tozer was right when he said: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
- 2) Don’t challenge God’s authority – When God commands us to do something, obey Him. When He forbids us to do something, don’t do it. God makes the rules because He is God.
- 3) Don’t neglect God’s warnings – God means what He says and says what He means.
- 4) Don’t focus on what God forbids – Whatever gets your attention will get you.
- 5) Don’t try to run and hide from God – God knows where you are and He will find you.
- 6) Don’t try to justify sin by blaming others – Don’t try to cover your sin; confess it. The problem is not the sin we confess, but the sin we try to hide.

Proverbs 28:13 *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*