

Morning Sermon December 6, 2020
"The Curse and Its Cure"— Genesis 3:16-24

I. God's word, speaking about the curse, teaches us that sin negatively impacts both our reality and our relationships –

1. How sin / the curse negatively impacts a woman's reality –

¹⁶ To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Genesis 3:16 A (NKJV)

- A. The physical pain involved in bringing forth children –
- B. The psychological, emotional and sometimes physical pain involved in relations with fallible human beings, even your own children -

2. How sin impacts a woman's and all our relationships –

Your desire *shall* be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Genesis 3:16 B (NKJV)

II. God's word, speaking about the curse, teaches us that sin negatively impacts both our work and our entire world –

1. The woman's role was focused on relationship, the man's / Adam's was focused on responsibility –

Adam was our federal head, under God, he had authority over this world, his error was listening to his wife instead of God -

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Genesis 3:17 A

2. Because of his position of authority over the earth, his failure curses the earth -

"Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Genesis 3:17 B

3. The impact of Adam's sin includes but is not limited to what is written here –

A. There are the thorns and the thistles in the garden -

¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

B. Sweat, hard labor is now Adam's lot and the lot of all men -

¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, Genesis 3:19 A

- This includes the work of Pastors, though not so much physical labor, there is spiritual labor!

• Paul compares such labor to husbandry, farming, gardening –
⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9 (NKJV)

- Our Lord Jesus provides us the ultimate example of spiritual labor within a garden, Gethsemane –

⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:44 (NKJV)

C. The curse reaches to all of creation –

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Romans 8:22 (NKJV)

- Sharp tooth and clawed animals
- Cruelty even in insects
- A sun which provides light and warmth for life, but which is also untouchable, what if there was no sin?

²⁵ "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Daniel 3:25 (NKJV)

- Our life is limited to this one planet in the universe, it is limited to 120 years –

4. The wages of sin (also part of the curse) are death -

For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19 B (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

⁵ So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. Genesis 5:5 (NKJV)

The words “and he died” are written a lot in Genesis 5, because sin means we all die!

III. *Dealing with sin and the curse is beyond us, therefore we need a Savior, Jesus Christ –*

1. *Adam knew God’s grace and forgiveness, and he had hope because of the promise contained in the curse of the serpent, Eve’s Seed, the woman’s Seed – Christ would crush Satan’s head -*

²⁰ And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Genesis 3:20 (NKJV)

2. *However, redemption required “death” Adam’s work, sowing fig leaves, would not do –*

Compare Genesis 3:7 to Genesis 3:20

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. Genesis 3:7 (NKJV) See also Galatians 2:16 & 3:10

²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. Genesis 3:20 (NKJV)

The death of this animal was symbolic, it pointed forward to Christ’s death on the cross –

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)

3. *The guarding of the tree of life, no sinner can reach it -*

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from

which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:20–24 (NKJV)

4. *I believe the tree of life is Christ’s cross –*

A. *Consider Isaiah 53 –*

⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And **by His stripes we are healed.** Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)

B. *And compare it to the description of the Tree of Life in Heaven in Revelation 22 –*

²² And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, **was the tree of life**, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.** ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. Revelation 22:1-3

C. *Consider Christ’s death of the cross is the only remedy –*

¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*”), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13-14

5. *This is the reason Jesus was born into this world and it is worth singing about –*

²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, **for He will save His people from their sins.**” Matthew 1:20–21 (NKJV)

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found. Isaac Watts

Arnold Brevick