

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sun 20th Aug 2023

Genesis Ch 3:1-7 – Back to The Beginning

A Life Altering Fall

Gods' sovereign and providential hand.

Chapter 3 will be broken into a 2-week study.

Reference made to a news story.

- British Nurse – Lucy Letby – who has been sentenced to a whole life jail term after murdering 7 babies.

News Anchor talking to a guest psychologist.

And the question is their such thing as just pure evil?

– the psychologist response was disheartening.

“This is a debate that is ongoing, normal healthy Individuals don't hurt people!

- This isn't unique in the life of man.

Prompts us to ask questions – why is there evil, why is their pain, why is their suffering, why do these things happen, where does this stuff come from?

- Answers to this can be found in Genesis 3.

Introduced to a change that happens.

At the end of Ch 1 and 2...

- God said it is very good.
- God created Adam and Eve, brought them together in marriage, holy matrimony, its beautiful.
- The garden of Eden and as its described, a place of blessing and peace, communion with God, a place where the created enjoyed the company of the creator and basked in their friendship with God.
- A place in which work was fulfilling and rewarding, a place where the husband and wife enjoyed one another's company. And companionship and there was perfect communication and complete acceptance, beautiful intimacy, and total security.

It is in this environment that the enemy of steps in, the adversary, the father of lies, Satan, the devil.

Not as a roaring lion seeking who to devour.

He comes in as a crafty deceiver.

- As a Serpent seeking to stir up strife, spread lies and doubts, mar the beautiful and pollute the pure.

Genesis 3:1-7 Christian Standard Bible

The Temptation and the Fall

3 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’?”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. ³But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴“No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“In fact, God knows that when^[a] you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So, she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Back up one verse

Genesis 2:25 Christian Standard Bible

²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

Genesis 3 V1 onward...

The devil enters the picture.

- But – the passage tells us that the serpent does!

Question – Did Satan indwell the serpent?

- Although this is not an important question to consider.

Satan the chief choir angel, fell from heaven and took a large component of angels with him.

- Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 talk about – the devil wanted to elevate himself to the place of God.

Revelation 12:7-9 Christian Standard Bible

The Dragon Thrown Out of Heaven

⁷Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, ⁸but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.

Question – When did this happen?

- Sometime prior to Genesis 3!
- Satan comes and through the serpent deceives Eve.
- It is important for us to understanding the Satan's Game Plan.

Quote Colin Smith –

Generally, when you play a sport and you are going up against an opponent, if you really want to beat that opponent, it is important to know what the opponents game plan is and then adjust your game plan.

This is from our perspective – not God's perspective – it is important for us to know Satan's game plan.

- God didn't make adjustments because Satan caught him off guard.

The Devils Game Plan.

It is clearly seen, and we see it in our own lives James talks about it and John in 1 John Ch 2 talks about it.

Paul talks about it, the reality of it.

- The consequences on all creation.
- Longings to when God will restore it to its former glory.

The first way he deceives.

Pastor quote – Satan's schemes are pretty limited, but they are all that he needs to be effective.

He only really has 3 schemes.

Here is where we see it first.

Genesis 3:1 - **3** Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Response – when we hear that what is our automatic response – NO – God didn’t say that.

a) He Causes Confusion Through Doubt.

- Eve questioning – “What did God say, what was his command”?

Verse 2 – 3

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. ³But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’”

- Command.

God laid out criteria in Chapter 2 – things ordained before Eve was even created.

Eve added restriction to God’s command.

- I know what he commanded.

She added to the restrictiveness of the command.

“We can’t touch it either” - ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’”

- Doubt already – Did God really say this?

We see this in our lives all the time – we are confronted with temptation; we are confronted with sin.

The world whispers in our ears the same kind of things! – Is that really what God said about that?

- We wrestle with doubt.
- She did accurately communicate the other aspects of the command.
- It is Satan who manipulates God’s words.

“You’re not going to die – he is not being accurate – he is the one lying to you”!

You can’t trust God’s word, but you can trust what I say!

Think about this!!!

- Eve's meeting with the serpent was all of 5 minutes!
- She had experienced and already new so much – living with and having fellowship with God in the garden, knowing and experiencing how beautiful and wonderful living in the garden is!

She has full understanding of what good is, but the devil says you can't trust God!

Question – How can this even happen?

How often as followers of Jesus Christ we know what God's word says, but we don't do it anyway!

We say umm I don't know that I can really trust what God's word says!

It is important we remember that.

He manipulates God's words, he says...

.⁵ “In fact, God knows that when^[a] you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Adam and Eve knew exactly what good was, they had no concept of evil.

- We have evil thoughts – we don't want it.

Question - Why would Eve ever want to conceive of evil things?

- Satan passes this off as something we would want.

#3 – Satan Appeals to Selfish Ambitions.

- You can be like God!

Satan says “I want to be like the most high – Satan's pride.

He says this to Adam and Eve – you can be like the most high if you pursue this.

The bible tells us that Eve is attacked just like we are attacked.

1 John 2:15-16 Christian Standard Bible

A Warning about the World

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Picture Eve looking at the fruit.

- Lust of the flesh.
- Lust of the eyes.
- Pride of Life.

The Fall altered everything.

You in Verse 1 - “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’?”

- This is a plural you – Adam and Eve.
- “Did God really say this”.

Key Point – Adam had been there the whole time and never stepped in!

Remember what God told us.

- Say nothing and partake in the fruit.

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Pastoral Quote – Skip Heitzig.

There is a cover up that happened. They realised that they were sinful, they experience shame because of that sin, and they had this insatiable urge to cover up their sin.

We tend to look at this and say, “If I were there we wouldn’t be in this Mess”!

- Remember that Adam and Eve were the best of us, because they didn’t have sin natures, they only knew what was good and they fell!

Scripture makes it clear that we are all sinful.

Jeremiah 17:9 Christian Standard Bible

The Deceitful Heart

⁹The heart is more deceitful than anything else,
and incurable—who can understand it?

A general statement about all people.

Ephesians 2 – Paul talking to believers – about what they were like before they trusted Christ as saviour.

Ephesians 2 Christian Standard Bible

From Death to Life

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ² in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.^[a] ³ We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

This is what the results of sin brought.

- Paul describes the war that exists in the life of a believer, because they still wrestle with sin, as they stay in these fleshly bodies right now.

Paul says this...

Romans 7:19-25 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁹ For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, I am no longer the one that does it, but it is the sin that lives in me. ²¹ So I discover this law:^[a] When I want to do what is good,^[b] evil is present with me. ²² For in my inner self^[c] I delight in God's law, ²³ but I see a different law in the parts of my body,^[d] waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

You can feel the desperation of Paul here.

- “Oh, wretched man that I am”.
- Frustration and anger.

V25 – says “Why does he say this”?

God had the victory already secured.

- Jesus was already to go to the cross before this ever took place!

We wrestle with that we can do this ourselves!

Reference - Matthew Ch 4 – a great example – talking about Jesus’ temptation.

The purpose of Matthew recording this for us isn’t so that we could do better, it to highlight the fact that Jesus as the son of God, sinless in perfection, the only one that could pay the penalty for our sin.

- We wrestle with statements like this...

Batman Begins Quote...

Bruce Wayne falls into a well and gets rescued by his dad.

Quote – “Why do we follow Bruce, so that we can pick ourselves up.”

We live by this before God.

“I can pick myself up by myself”!

We can’t do this.

Hebrews 2:18 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁸For since he himself has suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Jesus suffered in his temptation.

We go through this.

- We are tired – frustrated – beaten down and wondering why we have to go through this.

- And thinking - Nobody has any idea what I am going through!

But Jesus knows exactly what we are going through, he suffered in temptation, like we suffered in temptation.

Hebrews goes on in Ch 4 verses 14 and 15.

Hebrews 4:14-15 Christian Standard Bible

Our Great High Priest

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

- Jesus experienced every area of temptation that we experienced, but he never sinned.

Matthew 4:1-11 Christian Standard Bible

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³Then the tempter approached him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴He answered, “It is written: **Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**”^[a]

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

**He will give his angels orders concerning you,
and they will support you with their hands
so that you will not strike
your foot against a stone.**”^[b]

⁷Jesus told him, “It is also written: **Do not test the Lord your God.**”^[c]

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹And he said to him, “I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me.”^[d]

¹⁰ Then Jesus told him, “Go away,^[e] Satan! For it is written: **Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.**”^[f]

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.

Jesus was tempted in every way that we are but never sinned!

He is the only one who can pay the penalty of our sin, he is the only who can rescue us. Why? – because we are dead in our trespasses and sins. If it wasn't for Jesus doing all of this, we would be hopeless, but we are not hopeless.

Matt read about the gift - The gift is greater than the trespass.

- Reference made to the Samaritan woman at the well.

Jesus says this – “If you know the gift”.

Question – Why the gift?

- Telling the lady about himself.

Ephesians 2 – Paul says this...

Being reminded about sin, reminds us about God's grace.

Ephesians 2:4 Christian Standard Bible

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us,^[a]

- Saved by grace – Not by works.

Jesus came to save sinners.

Can we say – “I was like this”?

Question - Christian – Are you regularly, actively praising God for his grace?