

# Tempting Eve. Tempting you.

Lesson for Sunday, May 15, 2022

TEXT: Genesis 3:1-7

INTRODUCTION: *What are the most important chapters in the Bible? Discuss...*

- Genesis 3 should easily make the list!
  - In this chapter we see the introduction to sin into the world.
  - In this chapter we see the impact of sin on the world.
  - In this chapter we see an indication of the Savior of the world.
- Even though the events of Genesis 3 took place thousands of years ago, it is still relevant to our daily lives. James refers to the Bible as a mirror. In the temptation and sin of Adam and Eve, we see ourselves.
- We all love God and most have trusted Him for salvation. God has been nothing but good to each of us. Then why do we sin so often?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Sin begins when we doubt the Word of God (v.1-3).
  - a. God had clearly explained to Adam and Eve His expectations. He did not leave out anything that was necessary for them to trust and obey Him.
  - b. Satan immediately worked to introduce doubt about God's Word: "Did God really say?"
    - i. What did God say? Read 2:16.
    - ii. God said, "You can freely eat of every tree but one!" (Pretty good deal!)
    - iii. Satan begins with, "You shall not eat of every tree?"
  - c. Satan words his question as if to say, "I can't believe God wouldn't allow you to eat from that tree!" Do you see how that makes God look?
  - d. How should Eve have responded? The only right response would have been, "No! God didn't say that! God gave us life! God gave us each other! God gave us this beautiful place to live! God has given us more than we can ever begin to comprehend. God is good, He loves us and He wants what is best for us."
  - e. What did Eve say in verse 2? Is that what God said?
    - i. She took away from God's Word (removed the idea of "freely eat").
    - ii. She added to God's Word (nor touch it).
  - f. Point of Application: Eve distorted God's Word. The Word of God is the most important possession we have as Christians. It is important to know what it says, and to avoid twisting it to say what we want it to say.
  - g. When we doubt God's Word, we will eventually disobey God's Word.
  - h. Application:
    - i. Are you standing firm on the truth of God's Word, or have you begun to entertain the thought, "Did God really say?"
    - ii. Do you spend enough time in God's Word to know what it actually says?
2. Sin continues when we doubt the goodness of God (vv.4-6a).
  - a. Satan's next step was to deny God's goodness (vs. 4). Satan says, "I can't believe that God said that! God has lied to you! God has been holding out on you."
  - b. Everything about the way God created the world in Genesis 1 and 2 says "God is good." He had graciously provided everything that man and woman needed to live the full life God intended, in fellowship with Him.

- c. Even while living in God's gracious provision, the woman began to believe the lie that God was keeping something that she needed from her. Rather than trusting in the goodness of the Creator, Eve began to focus on what she thought she needed.
  - d. Discuss: How do we doubt God's goodness? Can we think of an example?
  - e. Application:
    - i. God's Word reminds us that God has given us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
    - ii. When we allow ourselves to question the goodness God – when we question that God knows best what we need – instead of being God-focused, we become self-focused and that always leads to sin.
3. Finally, we disobey the command of God (vv.6b-7).
- a. Once we begin to doubt His Word & His goodness, it is an easy to disobey Him.
  - b. They sought pleasure and fulfillment from what they thought was best and not what God had clearly instructed. Instead of trusting in God to provide, they determined to be their own providers and their own lords.
  - c. The result of their disobedience was devastating. Everything in the world changed that day, and the world has never been the same.
  - d. When they disobeyed God, their eyes were indeed opened. They did not, however, see what they expected to see.
  - e. Rather than seeing that they had become God-like themselves, they found themselves cut off from the fellowship with God they had once freely enjoyed.
  - f. Application:
    - i. Disobedience to God's command does not bring abundant life and greater freedom. Instead, it brings spiritual death and bondage.
    - ii. Have you believed the lies that God's Word is not true and that God is holding out on you? Have you allowed those lies to lead you to disobeying God's commands and following instead your own will and desires?

APPLICATION: What are the guardrails that we can establish in our daily habits to keep us from falling prey to temptation?

- Start the day with the Bible on your lap. Learn the Bible and how to apply it in one's life.
  - How can we continue in God's Word throughout the day?
- How does the role of being thankful apply to overcoming sin?
  - If we are thankful to God for what He has done in our lives, then we will be less likely to question His goodness.
  - How can we be more aware of God's blessings?
- How have you seen the "waves of sin" impact others? How does the impact of sin contradict the thought that one's sin is private and "doesn't hurt anyone else?"
- When we sin, how do we fix it? Discuss confession, repentance and restitution.