

The Fall Changed It All

Lesson for Sunday, February 26, 2023

TEXT: Genesis 3:6

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Welcome to Week #3 in our series, “The Whole Story of the Bible in 16 Verses!” Review:
 - Genesis 1:31 – God created it all.
 - Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God’s image.
- ⇒ While we are looking at 16 specific verses, the importance of Genesis chapter 3 cannot be overstated. We refer to the event as “The Fall.” Our key verse is Genesis 3:6 (read).
- ⇒ The most-often asked question of unbelievers is, “Why do bad things happen?” It’s the questions that surround evil: Why does it exist? Why does God allow bad things to happen?
 - Interestingly, this is the most-often asked question of professing Christians, as well.
 - Why do you think that is? *We usually ask this question when bad things happen close to home.*
- ⇒ We cannot understand the story of the Bible if we don’t understand Genesis 3.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Clear Command of God
 - a. When God created and commissioned Adam and Eve, He gave them virtually free rein in the garden. They had His permission to do almost anything they desired.
 - b. But there was one rule about one tree. Read Genesis 2:15-17.
 - i. The Bible doesn’t tell us much about this tree. We don’t know the exact kind of fruit that it produced, or even what it looked like.
 - ii. What we know is that God was clear in His command not to eat of it. And if God made the command, it was for Adam and Eve’s good not to eat of it. God’s commands are not arbitrary or meaningless.
 - iii. In fact, God told them explicitly that if they were to disobey they would “surely die.”
 - c. In essence, God was asking them to trust Him. He asked them to believe that what He told them was the best thing for them.
 - i. ILL: Good parents do the same with their children.
 - ii. When young, children are often drawn to the road, not aware of the significant damage an oncoming car might do to them.
 - iii. Parents give strong instructions to their children not to go near the road. They are not trying to disappoint them, they are not hiding something wonderful from their kids – they are giving rules that are in the best interest of the child.
 - d. The problem? Just like children, adults don’t always respond properly.
2. The Confusing Temptation of the Serpent
 - a. In 3:1 we are introduced to the serpent. At this point, we don’t know much about him.
 - i. We don’t know if Eve was surprised to hear the serpent speak.
 - ii. We don’t know where he came from.
 - b. What do we know?
 - i. We know the serpent started a conversation with Eve.
 - ii. We know that Adam did not protect his wife from the serpent. Remember God’s command in Genesis 1 for Adam to subdue the earth? It appears he was asleep at the wheel.
 - c. As soon as Eve starts talking, the observant reader can begin to pick up an issue.
 - i. Read Eve’s response in 3:2-3. What is the problem with her response?
 - ii. Eve added to the command of God – “neither shall ye touch it.” God didn’t say that!

- d. The serpent took advantage of the moment and attacked the character of God.
 - i. Read verses 4-5.
 - ii. The serpent alleged that God was not interested in their good, but instead was keeping back the best from His creation.
 - iii. The serpent convinced Eve to take the fruit by convincing her that when she and Adam ate it, they would be like God (see vs. 5).
 - e. Once Eve had taken a bite, she gave it to her husband and he followed suit.
 - i. It's important to notice that Adam was not off doing something else while Eve was falling for the serpent's temptation.
 - ii. Look at verse 6. The verse clearly states that Eve gave a piece "unto her husband with her."
 - iii. Adam was a willing and able participant in the entire event.
3. The Consequences Suffered by Man
- a. God had told them clearly in 2:17 that if they chose to disobey, they "shall surely die." This is exactly what happened.
 - b. While physical death would be in the future, they faced a more serious death in that moment – spiritual death.
 - i. They lost the intimacy they had experienced previously with their God and Creator.
 - ii. They were no longer able to walk with God in the cool of the day.
 - iii. Their relationship had been severed.
 - c. Other consequences also were introduced by God in the rest of the chapter:
 - i. For the woman – read verse 16.
 - ii. For the man – read verses 17-19.
 - d. This was one of the darkest days in human history. It impacted everything and we are still living with the fallout today.
 - e. But even in the midst of this dark hour, there was hope. While Adam and Eve had chosen to walk away from God, God did not leave them without hope. Come back next week!

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Put the first three parts of God's Story together:
 - Genesis 1:31 – God created it all.
 - Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God's image.
 - Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all.
- ⇒ What lessons are there for us to learn from Genesis 3? *Discuss...*
 - Sin has consequences...
 - We must always be alert to temptation...
 - Temptation is a question of trust. Will you trust God's plan for your life, or Satan's?
 - How do we overcome temptation?