

DATE: April, 20, 2008

TEXT: Genesis 3: 1-13,

TITLE: "Genesis IV: The Fall I"



For the past two weeks we have been looking at God's creation of the world. We saw day after day God looked at His creation and declared that "it is good." But we live in this world. We look around us and we see that much of the world is not good. There is disease. There is selfishness. There is war. There is hunger and poverty. There is death. There is broken relationships. There is fear. There is greed. I could go on and on and on. What happened to God's "good" creation? That is what we are going to see this morning.

We saw last week that we were created in the image of God. God created us with intelligence and with choice. Why did God create humanity? I believe because God wanted companionship. He did not need it.... he desired it. But God did not want a pet. God wanted a worthy companion. That is why he placed in humanity the image of God. He gave humanity choice.... real choice. Adam and Eve had a free will.. They could chose everlasting goodness and fellowship with their creator or they could choose disobedience. We know the result. Adam

and Eve chose disobedience. Notice the path of disobedience. We see in Eve five steps to disobedience. They are the same steps we also take today.

Step # 1 Being tempted by evil. *Genesis 3:1 states..*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

We need to recognize a truth: Satan desires to drive every single person away from God.

And I believe it is not hard to see the truth that Satan is powerful in this World.

2 Corinthians 4: 3,4 states....

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Satan is called “the god of this age.” By choosing to disobey God, humanity has advocated authority and power to Satan on this planet.

Notice what Eve was doing wrong. Eve was standing by the tree. Truthfully, I do not see this as a one time event. I believe it took months, possibly even years, but Eve kept going back to the forbidden tree. She placed herself again and again in the place of temptation.

Satan tempts each and every person. It's not hard in this day and age. Turn on the T.V. and you will see greed and you will see sex and you will see disrespect for parents. I read this statistic a few years ago that 9 out of 10 times when sex is shown or alluded to on T.V., it is outside the marriage relationship. Do we wonder why our young people, who watch hours and hours of T.V., think sex outside of marriage is normal and accepted. The whisperings of Satan are heard on T.V.

You don't think greed and selfishness is the theme of most T.V. shows? Watch game shows. Deal or No Deal. What is the theme. Get rich by taking a gamble. Never settle for less. Be greedy. Look at scantily dressed girls. The whisperings of Satan. Or reality shows like Survivor.. or Big Brother....degrade yourself for money. The whisperings of Satan.

Listen to the music that is pumped directly into the brains of our young people. iPods send messages directly to the brain. What are these messages? Are they: Love your spouse? Respect authority? Seek the Lord? No, usually they are the whisperings of Satan.

The first step in sin is allowing exposure to temptation.

Step # 2 A person doubts and twists the truth of God's Word. *Genesis 3:2-3 states...*

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

God has given us truth. Truth revealed in his creation. Truth revealed in this Word and truth revealed in His Son. Read through the gospel and underline every time Jesus said **"I tell you the truth...."** You will underline hundreds of sentences. Allow me to share 2 occasions...

57" You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" 58" I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59At this, they picked up stones to stone him, (John 8:3)

Why did they try to stone Jesus? Because in this statement Jesus was claiming to be God. "I Am" is Jehovah. It is the name of God. The Jews knew this fact, they tried to kill him.

6Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well.

Satan always tries to hide the truth of God's Word. Satan always tries to twist God's word. "Did He really say that?" "Oh, that is so old fashioned... "It's not true in the 21st century." "A loving God would never rob you of this pleasure, go ahead." The twisting of God's truth is the second step of temptation. When God's truth is abandoned, sin will always follow.

Step # 3 The desire for independence will always lead to sin. *Genesis 3: 4,5*

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

Possibly the underlying sin in every one of our actions that displease God is the desire to be like God. We are satisfied with the image of God that we have. We want the authority and the independence of God.

Adam and Eve lived in paradise. Food was readily available. They had authority over all of creation. Adam had named all the creatures. They had constant fellowship with their creator. God would regularly walk through the garden. They had love for each other. Joy, happiness, peace... paradise. And yet.... they wanted more. They wanted to be like God.

Was it possible for Adam and Eve to not sin? The answer, of course, is yes. It is possible that if Adam and Eve would have chosen to obey God that we today would still live in paradise. Eve had the power and the strength to ignore and even cast the serpent out of Eden and be done with the temptation. She chose to listen. She chose to be "like God."

We still see the desire for independence today. Just look at a 3 year old or an 8 year old, or how about a 13 year old. I could mention any age. Parents love their children. Parents protect their children. Parents try to set up a situation of joy and peace and happiness for their children. And yet children resist their parents. They rebel. They fight back. Parents almost have to force children and teens to make the right decision. Why? Because they want to be “like God.” They have “wisdom;” they want independence. Of course, no one can ever achieve this independence. The more “independent” a teen gets, the more miserable they are in the long run.

Jesus knew this truth. Jesus says...

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.

The ironic truth is this. The more you seek independence, the more of a slave you become. Selfishness is addictive. Fun and pleasure is addictive. It destroys marriages. It destroys relationships. It leaves a person lonely and miserable, but they did it their way. They just fell into a living hell as a result. Adam and Eve fell into selfishness. It cost them paradise.

Step # 4 Adam and Eve acted upon the temptation. *Genesis 3: 6 states*

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

If you stand in the presence of temptation too long, you will always act upon that temptation. Scripture is clear that we must not place ourselves in the path of temptation because we will always act upon that temptation. Jesus knew this truth. Here are his commands: First, pray

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Jesus is saying: if you stand in the path of temptation, you will sin, the body is weak.

Second, Jesus says: flee temptation.

"Flee sexual immorality." (1 Corinthians 6:18)

"Flee idolatry." (1 Corinthians 10:14)

Flee Greed 1 Timothy 6:11 teaches.....10For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. ...But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12Fight the good fight of the faith.

2 Timothy 2: 22 commands....22Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us take this command and live it.

- Flee temptation. Does this mean we as Christians need completely different T.V. viewing habits.... YES.
- Flee the sins of the tongue. Do we have different standards for humor? Of course, yes.
- Flee your selfishness. Are Christian marriages different because we refuse to give in to selfishness? Yes.
- Flee your anger. Stop your anger at level one so you don't get to level 10. Again I could go on and on and on.

The lesson is this: flee temptation. Live a life that minimizes the temptations of Satan.

Don't stand by the tree! It is stupid and you will always fail.

Finally step # 5 Recognize that sinners never want to sin alone. *Genesis 3:6*

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it

Adam was with Eve. Adam failed to protect Eve. Adam purposely chose to sin with Eve.

Adam is guilty of a great, great sin. No one wants to sin alone. Satan uses sinners to recruit other sinners. Eventually the recruitment involves the entire society. Recognize the power of sin that surrounds us.

The sin of Adam and Eve corrupted all of humanity. *Romans 5:12, 15 teaches...*

This, then, is what happened. Sin made it's entry into the world through one man, and through sin, death. But the gift of God through Christ is a very different matter....For while as a result of one man's sin death by natural consequence became the common lot of man, it was by the generosity of God, the free giving of grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, that the love of God overflowed for the benefit of all men. (Phillips paraphrase)

Next week we will continue to see the consequences of sin... and the victory we have in Christ.