



DATE: April 27, 2008

TEXT: Genesis 3: 7-13, 20-24

TITLE: "Genesis V: The Fall II"

I am continuing this week looking at the choice of Adam and Eve to rebel against God.

Last week we looked at the process of sin and temptation. We saw that Eve placed herself in the situation of temptation, refused to trust in and believe the Word of God, refused to accept the abundant grace of God, and decided she wanted to be like God. She choose a path of sin. Last week we saw that we, too, face temptation. Satan desires each and every one of us walk a path away from God. We must make the decision to flee temptation and trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us.

This week we are going to look at the consequences of sin. Again, we will see that the consequences began in the Garden of Eden.... but continues today in our lives.

Consequence # 1 There is a broken relationship between people. *Genesis 3:7 states*

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

What had changed? Were they naked before the eating of the forbidden fruit? Yes. Were

they husband and wife and had experienced intimacy before the eating of the fruit? Yes. What changed? They immediately knew they had made a choice that dishonored God. They were aware of self and this awareness of self made them feel guilty and shame.

The consequences of sin is selfishness. The desire to be “like God” is a desire to elevate self over others. Selfishness destroys relationships. *James 2* gives this truth

1What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures

Again, we see ths truth in our lives today. What causes marriages to fall apart?

Selfishness. What causes children to have a broken relationship with parents? Selfishness.

What causes neighbors and co-workers to fight and dislike each other? Selfishness.

We also see this broken relationship when Adam and Eve encounter God. They refused to accept responsibility. They played the blame game. *Genesis 3:11-13 states*

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Notice who Adam blamed. He blamed his wife and he blamed God himself. “The woman... who you put here.... made me do it. It’s her fault... it’s your fault.” The blame game.

The refusal to accept responsibility for our destructive actions.

“Well she made be do it... if she had been a more loving wife I would not have acted the way I did.”

Well, it’s his fault.... if he had been more considerate of me I would not have acted the way I did.

This blame game starts early. Children say, **“He started it.” “I didn’t start it; she started it.”**

My wife as a teacher gets this fairly often. Parents call and say something like this, **“My child is failing Spanish. Why are you making her fail?”** My wife will share the opportunities she has given for extra credit which the child has not taken advantage of. My wife will calmly share the 50% to 80% failure to do home work. My wife will explain the numerous times she stays after school to help students, but this child has never come for help. My wife will calmly say the child is working below potential, and yet still some parents refuse to admit that the responsibility to pass a subject is their child’s.

Selfishness and the refusal to accept responsibility causes misery for individuals. It causes

brokenness of all relationships. That is a consequence of the fall of humanity.

Consequence # 2 The sin of Adam and Eve causes a broken relationship between God and humanity. *Genesis 3: 8-10 states...*

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

A consequence of sin is broken relationship with our Heavenly Father. Remember this:

God created us to be in fellowship with Him. We have this wonderful vision in our text of God casually walking in the garden. We see the wonderful fellowship that existed between God and Adam and Eve before the fall. But upon choosing disobedience and fellowship, they hid from the presence of God. This man and woman, who wanted to “be like god,” were now afraid to even be in the presence of God.

God had warned Adam and Eve if they ate of the tree they would die. Satan had said if they ate of the tree they would not die. Upon eating from the tree... they died. Again, remember the Biblical definition of death. Biblically, death is not the cessation of a heart beat. Biblically,

death is separation from God. Christians will not die. Oh yes, our hearts will someday cease to beat, but we will never be separated from God. Non-Christians are already dead. Adam and Eve experienced separation from God.

As we look around our world, we see a world that is still running away from and hiding from God. We still live in a world where the majority of people want to be “like God.” The truth of Genesis is this: When a person chooses to be their own god, they will be separated from the God who is the creator and the redeemer. The next few verses are the curses of God. He curses the serpent. He curses the man and He curses the woman. We live in a day and age that does not believe in the curses. We actually live in a day and age where people believe they can ignore God their entire lives. Live for themselves. Be their own god and still believe they will receive eternal rewards from God. They have never read the Bible. They have created god in their own image based on their own philosophy. The lesson from our text is clear. If you choose to be like god... if you choose independence, you will be separated from God... for eternity. We need to stop running from the truth. We need to stop running from the responsibility that each

and every person has. *Romans 14:12 states...*

12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 states...

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

John 1:12 states

12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

We all must choose... death and separation... or life and eternal fellowship with our

Heavenly Father.

Consequence # 3 The result of the fall is us witnessing the amazing love of the Heavenly

Father.

First, we see this in the story of Adam and Eve. *Genesis 3:20,21 states..*

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

This verse is seen as an act of repentance on the part of Adam. Eve literally means

“living.” *The New American Commentary states this*

Thus by phonic play, Adam explains why she is named Eve. She is “the mother of all

living” for all human life will have its source in her body. This assumes many generations of children, and it is a tribute to Adam’s faith in the prospect that God has revealed. Adam had learned, albeit through the most calamitous lesson, to accept God’s word in faithful obedience.

And what did God do after this act of repentance? He clothed them. He accommodates them in their sin. He makes clothing for them. He looked at them; they had sewn fig leaves together. Have you ever tried to sew leaves together. I’m sure it was not a good look.

And God clothes them. It is the first recording of the killing of an animal. Death and sacrifice was needed to accommodate the sin of man.

Second, we see the love of God in the prediction of God when cursing the serpent.

Genesis 3:15 states...

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

This is a prophecy. This is God saying eventually One would arise who would crush the head of the serpent. Eventually One would arise who would defeat Satan and overcome the curse of the fall. That One was Jesus Christ. I am going to show a video clip from the movie The Passion of Christ by Mel Gibson. This is at the beginning of the movie and is Gibson’s vision of

the Garden of Gethsemene. It is a parallel of the Garden of Eden. Once again Satan (seen as a woman in this movie) is tempting the second Adam. Let us see this clip....

SHOW MOVIE CLIP SCENE 3

How? How did the second Adam destroy the power of Satan? By the cross. Just as the sin of Adam and Eve created a separation between humanity and God, the cross of Jesus was the bridge restoring the possibility of intimacy with Christ. *Hebrews 9 gives this truth*

15For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

The cross of Christ brings salvation and restoration to His children.

Third, the love of God is shown because of the promised restoration of the Garden of Eden. We see this truth in *Revelation 21 and 22*

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

Eden will be restored. We will enter into the New Jerusalem with Eden in the center.

Once again we will have access to the tree of life. Yes, humanity has fallen. Praise be to God,

His love will never fail.

AMEN