

025, The Fall

1/6/2002 (SUN)

Bible: **Genesis 3:6-13**

Genesis 3:6-13 (King James Version)

¹Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ²And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. ⁶And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. ⁷And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. ⁸And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. ⁹And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? ¹⁰And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. ¹¹And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? ¹²And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. ¹³And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Last week we saw the temptation of Eve by the serpent in verses 1-5

He extended the temptation at the most opportune moment, when Eve was alone and in maximum danger. He then raised doubts about what God had said, and then denied the consequences by saying there would be a positive outcome of the sin.

This week we will consider the fall.

- I. The commission of the sin
 - a. The rationalization – verse 6, she considers the possible benefits while ignoring the negative benefits. Reason #1, Good for food, will meet my physical needs. Reason #2, pleasant for the eyes, beautiful to look upon and to handle and touch. Reason #3, a tree to be desired to make one wise, meet intellectual needs. These are all legitimate needs. She thought to fill legitimate needs in an illegitimate fashion. These could have all been met in a way provided by God. This is the characterization of all sin. Taking some kind of a shortcut to satisfaction of needs. You may need a new car, you can save up money and buy, or you could go out and steal one. One need is met legitimately and the other illegitimately. What is God's way of meeting this desire that I have in this moment and this circumstance? How has God designed for this need to be met?
 - b. The result – verse 6, she saw, she took, and she did eat. Once the mind is deceived, the actions inevitably follow. This is why we need to guard our heart. All sin is first

committed in the mind before it is carried out in the body. If we are to do right, we must think right. And the only way we can think right is by understanding the truth of God's Word.

II. The consequences of the sin

- a. Sin spreads – The first thing Eve did when sinning, is she attempted to involve someone else in her sin. People who commit sin are never satisfied with sinning alone. The greatest pleasure that a sinner can have is get someone else involved in their sin. Proverbs 1:10. Proverbs 4:16. At this point, Adam had a decision to make, God or his wife? He couldn't have both. I Timothy 2:14, Adam was not deceived. Eve was genuinely fooled by Satan. She was under a certain degree of deception when she fell into sin. Adam knew what he was doing, what the consequences would be, and he went ahead and did it anyway. Adam was the first Idolater. Adam put Eve above God. Adam had been alone, it had not been good to be alone, God made him a partner and brought her to him. And to lose her, would be very hard for Adam. Avoidance of sin involves hard choices. Sometimes it means avoiding people that we are very close to. Matthew 10:34-37. God was calling on Adam to love God more than anything else. Adam chose to go with Eve in her sin rather than to lose her. People sin for a while often times and seem to bear no consequences short term, and so we plunge in. The same could be true with Adam, he saw Eve without effect, and possibly with benefits. Sin is never confined, it always spreads. No man sins to himself. Sin spreads.
- b. Sin Separates – It separated Adam and Eve. The eyes of both of them were open, and they sewed fig leaves together. They were both naked, and not ashamed, there was nothing between them everything was open; complete transparency. Nothing hidden or between them. No barriers to intimacy at any level. This is speaking of the eyes of their consciousness. The guilt of shame of sin begins to drive a wedge of alienation between them. They become self conscious. They begin to have a distance between themselves. Never again would they know the intimacy and closeness that they had known before. Sin enters into relationships and it builds barriers in the relationship. The wonderful thing about redemption is that the sin can be broken down.
- c. It separated Adam and Eve from God, verse 8. Not only alienated from each other, but also from God. Verse 9, God calls for them and asks a question. Where art thou? God knew where they were physically, he knew exactly where they were. Adam should have asked the question himself, what condition are you in now? Where are you in relationship to me? Where am I in relationship with God? Comfortable? Want to run away? Around his people? Run and hide? Run to God? If we are not dressed in the righteousness of Christ, we would not want to be in the presence of God. Adam was scared, that is why he hid. He knew he had no covering for his sin, and without a covering for his sin, he would come under the wrath of God. Adam tried to cover his sin, but it was unacceptable. Cain should have known better from the experience of his own parents. We cannot cover our own sins. He that covers his own sins shall not prosper. Adam was not prospering. Genesis 3:11. What did you do to become to this awareness? What sin did you commit? God is not ignorant of what happened, he

wanted Adam to confess his sin. When we commit sin we need to think long and hard about that question. What have we done? We have offended a gracious God, we have broken a just and holy law, we have violated covenant, we have hurt our souls, other people, we have aided in the devil's work. Adam's response to God's command to confess his sins. The woman you gave me... Adam confesses that he ate, but he throws in a bunch of excuses. Really it was the woman's fault, and more than that, your fault for giving me the woman. How can there be a just God when all of this occurs? Mankind has ever since this time been blaming God for his own sins. It didn't work for Adam and it doesn't work for us. Eve confesses and blames serpent, something that God had made. Nobody wants to take ownership of the sin that they all committed. Blaming is a sign of inadequate repentance. I did it, I'm responsible, forgive me. Beware of that in your children, they will try to justify everything. Without real repentance, there is no grace and forgiveness. James 1:13-14, let no man say when he is tempted that he is tempted by God. Eve thought she was getting all of the benefits, and she ended up with all evil benefits. Things haven't changed, sin is still the same, it offers you a benefit with any cost, and what it has to deliver is all costs without any benefits. There is no advantage to sin. It is stupid to keep going down it. How can God meet the need of the enticement of this sin? I will recognize that sin never brings anything but death. May the Lord help us to see from the folly of these two how we might avoid the sin that they fell in to, and having been affected by their sin, rejoice in the remedy for it that God has provided.