

How Sin Happens

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Genesis 3:1-13 Now 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? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But 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. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For 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. And 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. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And 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. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And 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.

- I. The tempter's approach never changes.
 - A. He brought what was forbidden by God before her eyes and before her mind.
 - B. This is first necessary for any sin to take place.
 - C. Then he twisted the truth with words in order to cast it in a negative view. He said,

"Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

- D. Although it was true that they were not to eat of EVERY tree of the garden this is not what God had said.
- E. This is precisely what God had said:

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

- F. The devil and all those who are deceived and used by him do the same thing -
 - 1. They always look at the commands of God as something negative - "thou shalt not."
 - 2. They focus there on the forbidden rather than on the benevolence and liberality of God toward man, and think that by yielding to God they will be missing out on something.
- G. It is curious how they do not do this with sin, though.

1. When it comes to sin they look only at what is presented as the benefits and pleasures and ignore what they are certainly going to lose by obeying sin rather than God.
- II. The next step in the tempter's subtle scheme is to direct her thinking so that she will come to a wrong conclusion.
- A. This is where the deceit happens.
 - B. He simply made a statement that was not true at all and contrary to what God had certainly said.
 - C. He did that with the intention of setting the wheels of her mind in motion.
 - D. Every sin begins with a lie, and from that point the reasoning is flawed and headed in the wrong direction.
 1. The mind is working with false data, working from the basis of a truth that is not true at all.
 2. The lie starts begetting other lies and deceit in the mind, just like a snowball rolling down a hill.
 - E. The first lie of the tempter is not to convince you, but to simply set your thoughts in motion to consider the thing and enflame your desire for it.
 - F. Next, the natural progression is to question WHY the thing forbidden is wrong.
 - G. When the authority of God's Word is laid aside the deceived mind will automatically approve what God has made clear He disapproves.
 - H. The deceived and blinded mind places self in the place of God and determines what is right or wrong "FOR ME."
 - I. The mind becomes obsessed with the idea that you are missing out, or being denied something in order to keep you oppressed and under the thumb of someone else.

And 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, ...

- J. At this point she still has not sinned, but she is only a heartbeat away from it.
- K. This is temptation at its fever point, and all the red lights should be going off for anyone who has any understanding at all.
 1. And they are for those who are watching, but for the one being tempted, they are already blinded and deceived.
 2. When you have believed the lie, then the desire will take you on across the line.
- L. It has become all about her now -
 1. God is no longer a consideration.
 2. Her husband and their lives together are not a consideration.
 3. The idea of facing her husband and God with what she is about to do is not even in her thoughts.
 4. The way this is going to affect her relationship with her husband and God is not a part of her thoughts at all.
 5. What appears to her to be sound reasoning and justice for herself is foolish and blind thinking that leaves out everyone and everything else in the universe.
 6. She has convinced herself that she is going to be able to do this and it will make no difference in anything except that she will "know" what it is like and will surely be better for it.

..she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

- M. She crossed the line and stepped in.
- N. She stopped considering it and acted upon her flawed and deceived reasoning.
- O. This is the precipice from which there is no return - once you take this step you cannot take it back.

And the eyes of them both were opened,

- P. Oh yes, their eyes were opened, but it did not look like she expected it to look just a moment ago.

and they knew that they were naked;

- Q. There was immediate shame and a feeling between Adam and Eve that they had never experienced before.
 - 1. But it was not pleasant, it was not good, it was not something to be desire, and they sure did not feel wise anymore.
 - 2. Guilt is not what people anticipate feeling before they "take of the fruit."
 - 3. It is a cruel surprise that mocks them in their soul continually.

...and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And 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.

- R. They ran for the darkness, for a place or a way - any way to hide themselves.
 - 1. They are really trying to run from the guilt, but cannot escape it.
 - 2. As long as there is a God in heaven there will be guilt in a sinners heart.
- S. This is the one and only reason men try to get rid of God or ban him from their life and their thoughts.

III. But God sent another Adam to take away the sin that the first Adam introduced into the world.

- A. The second Adam came to take away the sin of the world.
- B. He can actually take away the guilt of sin and make a man just before God.
- C. He can reverse the whole thing and it starts by introducing the truth into our thought process rather than the lies we have all believed.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- D. Just as you were led into sin by believing a lie and made to look unfavorably upon righteousness and favorably on sin, the process is reversed and you look favorably on righteousness and unfavorably on sin.
- E. The mind which hears and begins to consider the truth will come to some conclusions and will eventually take that step over the line into redemption and salvation and forgiveness.