

Genesis 3:1-7

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- V.1 – Satan starts off with questioning the character of God
- V.2-3 – The woman alters what God has said in 3 ways (freely eat until your heart's content to just eat, the addition of "neither shall you touch it," and God's warning of you will begin to die to you will die immediately)
- Each time making God out to be more restrictive than He is
- V.4 – Then Satan outright lies about God's Word
- V.5 – Sensing that the woman is battling in her mind, the serpent puts the temptation right in front of her
- The trap has been set
- Before anything has physically happened, the deception is already almost over
- The woman questions in her mind if God is who He says He is
- Could God's Words really be trusted or is there something better?

Genesis 3:6 - So when the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was a **delight** to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one **wise**, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

- **V.6b.** - Eve likely saw the tree as **delightful** before (everything made very good)
- **V.6c.** - She already knew it held **wisdom** (tree of knowledge of good and evil)
- **V.6a.** - But now, instead of not being able to even touch it, her mind had changed to it being **good for food**
- It's now desirable
- As the serpent pushes her along, knowing that God warned that the consequence was death if she ate, she trusts Satan's words more
- She exchanges God's truth for the lie
- She would not have taken the fruit if it wasn't attractive to her
- It was attractive because, in her mind, it was more desirable than God
- She saw, she desired, and she took

Genesis 3:6 - So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be **desired** to make one wise, she **took** of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

- We see themes that occur throughout the Bible that start here in Genesis 3
- Creation, fall, re-creation (Eden, fall, New Jerusalem)
- Satan's strategy of temptation (Disguise himself as an angel of light, then lies about God's character, God's Word)
- The actions of seeing, desiring, and taking are also repeated

Genesis 6:2 - the sons of God **saw** that the daughters of man **were attractive**. And they **took** as their wives any they chose.

Genesis 12:14-15 - When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians **saw** that the woman **was very beautiful**. 15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was **taken** into Pharaoh's house.

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2 Samuel 11:2-4 - It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he **saw** from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman **was very beautiful**. 3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? 4 So David sent messengers and **took** her,

- So Genesis **3:6** becomes a pattern of how and why we sin
- Sin starts with us seeing something
- In our minds we determine that thing to be desirable and we lust after it
- In our pride, we think we have the right to take it
- Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life

1 John 2:15-17

- **V.15** – We are instructed not to love the world
- What exactly does the word “world” mean?
- It can’t mean the physical, created world
- It was created good, and even in it’s fallen state, we can see God’s glory in it
- **Psalm 19:1** - The heavens declare the glory of God,...
- It can’t mean people or humanity
- God loves people and sent His only Son to die for people
- **John 3:16** – For God so loved the **world**...(people)
- **V. 16** - John equates the “world” to the pattern of how and why we sin
- The “world” **is** the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life
- Meaning, the world is so full of sin, it’s described as the process in which we sin
- Satan does not need to force us, he has created a world that caters to our sinful desires and we willingly dive deeper into our lust and pride
- Evil is now what rules this world

1 John 2:15-17

- 1 John 5:19 - ...the whole **world** lies in the **power of the evil one**.
- **Ephesians 2:2-3** – ...you formerly walked according to the course of this **world**, according to the **prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all **formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,...**
- When Adam and Eve gave in to the temptation and sinned, Satan became ruler of this world (dominion)
- This “world” is now controlled by our enemy (adversary)
- We are not to love the world because it is against God
- Therefore **V. 15** - If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- Because they are choosing the world (lust of flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life) over God

- At the end of Paul's life, he was ready to see Christ, but he was worried about those he would leave behind, especially Timothy
- Timothy was young and Paul repeatedly prayed for strength for him because he knew he was vulnerable to certain temptations
- Paul reminded Timothy that many had already deserted him
- **2 Timothy 1:15** - You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- **2 Timothy 4:10** - For Demas, **in love with this present world**, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.
- Demas had ministered with Paul, Titus, Luke, and Mark
- Even being with such great men of God, Demas abandoned Paul
- While Paul was willing to be martyred for Christ, Demas wanted this world
- **2 Peter 1:4** - ...he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.**

1 John 2:15-17

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that **friendship with the world** is **enmity with God**? Therefore whoever wishes to be a **friend of the world** makes himself **an enemy of God**.

- Demas had loved the world and made himself an enemy of God
- The kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God are incompatible
- They are opposed to one another
- True Christians will not be characterized by a habitual love for the world
- Worldly people will not show a love for the gospel and Jesus Christ
- You are either with God or against Him and there is no in-between

1 John 2:15-17

- **Ezekiel 28:12-17** - ...You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;...14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God;...You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you...you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.
- The important point is the fact that Satan and fallen Adam look so similar that some people can't tell the difference
- Unbelievers and Believers (when they sin) look the same way
- We look like the world, which looks exactly like Satan
- We are adversaries to God

1 John 2:16

- Because Adam and Eve sinned, sin is the dominant reality in the world
- Sin is universal and permeates every aspect of every person (“all that is in the world”)
- Although Satan tempts us, each sinner is responsible for their own sin

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- Eve was tempted by her own desire
- “She **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be **desired** to make one wise, she **took** of its fruit and ate,”
- The actions of **seeing, desiring, and taking** have become our pattern of sin
- And it brought forth death

Genesis 3:5; 7 – For God knows that when you eat of it your **eyes will be opened**, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil...7 **Then the eyes of both were opened**, and they knew that they were naked...

- Was Adam and Eve blind?
- If they weren't blind, and now they see, what did they see?

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- Was Adam and Eve blind?
- If they weren't blind, and now they see, what did they see? Evil
- Not evil, as in, now they could define it, but now they experienced evil
- Sin had entered them in their disobedience, and Sin brought death
- **Ephesians 2:1** - you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
- Having their eyes opened yet being dead, meant they could not see God's goodness anymore, only evil
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** - the god of this world has **blinded** the minds of the unbelieving so **that they might not see the light of the gospel** of the glory of Christ,
- In a weird way, their eyes being opened meant they were closed to God (good)
- Unless God opens your eyes to good, you will never see His glory

Genesis 3:5; 7 – reminders of our “eyes being opened”

- John 9:1-11; 35-39 – a reversal of Genesis 3
- Acts 9:1-18 – Paul, the chosen instrument to take the gospel to the world after Christ
- Luke 24:13-33a. – an intense discussion

Luke 24:13-33a.

- Notice the similarities to **Genesis 3**
- There's 2 people involved
- They are offered food
- Both the serpent and Jesus end up being the "host"
- The 2 people do not recognize the one offering the food for who they really are
- Once the food is accepted, it results in a new perception of spiritual reality
- Both times, this new understanding is described with the phrase "and their eyes were opened, and they knew"
- Both times, the people now understand retrospectively something God had already told them
- Adam and Eve now knew what it meant to know good and evil
- Cleopas and the other disciple now truly understand what Jesus meant when He opened the scriptures to them on the road

- Why do you think their eyes were kept from recognizing Jesus? (V.16)
- Their outward inability to recognize Jesus mirrored their inward unbelief of what the scriptures say about Him
- As Cleopas was walking, he was thinking things through
- He was struggling with what he had been taught and the reality that Jesus was dead
- You're doing yourself a disservice if the only scripture you're getting is from what I tell you on Sunday morning
- You'll forget most of it and likely not grow very much
- Your mind needs to wrestle with the Word
- Get to the point where you can teach it to someone else

- This story is how it should feel when The Word moves inside of us and we know it's true and we believe it
- When we ingest the spiritual food God offers us and meditate about, think about, talk about, and believe The Word, our eyes are opened
- Our hearts burn (it's an intense feeling) because we believe and want to glorify God now instead of this evil world
- The Word changes our desires to want more of God and His goodness
- Have you ever had that? (first got saved, late night talks, etc.)

Luke 24:32-34 - They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us while he was speaking with us on the road, while he was explaining the scriptures to us?" 33 So they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and those with them gathered together 34 and saying, "The Lord has really risen..."