

DEVELOPING A LIFE OF PRAYER

EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH

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“THEY DIDN’T HAVE A PRAYER!”

GENESIS 3

I. DISTRUSTING, DISOBEDIENT AND DYSFUNCTIONAL...WHEN YOU NEED PRAYER THE MOST!

A. One of the most vulnerable times for any believer is when all things are going well and we are unguarded about our surroundings.

- 1. The conditions in which Adam and Eve were living could not be any better: perfect environment, perfect relationship with God and each other, purpose for living was clear, to their knowledge there was no danger anywhere. What might seem weird and strange to us was common with them*
- 2. Since the Garden of Eden was the temple of meeting, the intersection of the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of earth, the place where God was making His presence known, there was no reason to suspect any danger was afoot. They must have seen cherubim and elohim daily as well as all the many different animal shapes that were present there also. They had not been introduced to fear.*
- 3. They were walking in innocent ignorance. Everything was going well. Truly blessed beyond measure, they were also vulnerable if wickedness or evil could be found in their presence.*
- 4. It was precisely at that time, their adversary saw the opportunity to exploit their ignorance or inexperience. Their adversary was also without experience in tempting humans but he was not without cunning and subtility, the art or craft of acuteness or careful, accurate, complete discerning; getting down to all the fine points that others may never consider; some would call it splitting hairs!*

5. *He proposed to the woman a question regarding simple rules of the garden. He was testing her understanding of the rules and how they applied. He knew this was not food for humans since God had already explained that to Adam, and Adam then to Eve. With his craftiness he made a plan.*
6. *With the trickery of words and meanings, he drew her into a conflict within herself regarding the character and nature of God. He suggested that God had not given them the whole story and the whole truth. Eating would not result in death but in greater wisdom and equality with God. God did not want equals so He had forbidden them to eat. This deceitful plan is going to lead her into seeking for herself a position to be desired. She was already like a god on planet earth since she and her mate were the ones in charge of the whole planet to act as mediators on His behalf. But the deceit led her to covet for herself equality with God.*
7. *Trusting what this interloper had told them, they together sought to be gods themselves! This DISTRUST is the original sin. It is FAITH or TRUST in God that saves us and it is DISTRUST of God that loses us. They chose to trust their intuition, their reason, and the liar who prompted it resulting in distrusting God.*
8. *DISTRUST led to DISOBEDIENCE for that was the only pathway open to them. The paths of life is TRUST in the living Creator, Provider, Redeemer God, Yahweh! All other paths are the paths of death; they miss the mark of God's glory. Thinking of themselves wise enough to question God's rules, they followed the path later outlined in the book of 1 John 2:15-16. She saw the tree and followed a simple path to death recorded for us in Genesis 3:6: "...it was pleasant to the eyes... (lust of the eyes in John 2:16); "...it was good for food...and a tree desirable..." (lust of the flesh John 2:16); "...to make one wise..." (pride of life John 2:16). In full distrust and*

disobedience to what God had told them, she ate and gave it to her husband with her.

9. *DISTRUST and DISOBEDIENCE now made them DYSFUNCTIONAL for the purposes for which God had made them. They were no longer the images of God as He had made them. They had been made in His image to represent Him on earth to mediate as He would do if He was in charge of the planet and all of its life. Now the image was marred and altered. They were separated from God by their distrust. Aware of their completely changed humanity, they tried to cover their shame and nakedness and hid from God.*
10. *God had to come looking for them. He put them in a position to confess their sin, though they did so with reluctance. They did not volunteer anything. They didn't have a prayer! Even with their confession, they mixed it with blame which ultimately blamed God for their willful act of distrust and disobedience. After all it was God who gave him the woman; it was God who made the serpent. The serpent was where the "buck stopped."*
11. *He had made them to be His mediators, His image, priests, if you will, in this temple of God. Now they had brought distrust and disobedience into that temple. They were disqualified to be the priests He had made them to be. Temple worship in the Garden was now in DYSFUNCTION.*
12. *What can we learn so far about prayer? Prayer is voluntary conversation with God. Their first prayer should have been to bring the interloping liar's challenges before God rather than to decide on their own what should be done with the challenge. When they had made the wrong decision, they should have sought out God and explained what had happened. They could have sought His mercy. They never came to prayer for they were still not trusting God, even after He confronted them! Our shame should be turned to repentant, humble confession directly to God. It is our misplaced fear of*

Him that reveals our distrust of Him. It is our continued reliance on our wisdom and reason that presents our faulty actions. As painful and shameful we think coming to God will be it is still the best and most rewarding thing we can do.

II. TRIED, TROUBLED AND TURNED OUT

- A. As a result of their unrepentant lack of confession God puts them on TRIAL. Their testimony does not take responsibility for their rebellious actions. They had chosen instead to bring the fault back to Him for creating the beings that led them to make a rebellious choice! Yet in the trial, He provides clothing and a sacrificial plan to renewal. He gives them great grace and mercy.*
- B. The verdict of guilt at the trial leaves the couple with a TROUBLED future. They would have trouble with their lives. She would have painful monthly cycles, difficulty with conception, pain with birth and an ongoing conflict with her husband regarding authority for the family. He had already shown himself weakened by her influence on his life. He could have simply obeyed God and not eaten but he listened instead to his wife and followed her. He had been passive as she dealt with the liar. Now they would have contention with one another. Yet, He was providing that one day a child would be born to her that would defeat the one who had deceived her. He would have to work now to have his food and both would face a physical death.*
- C. Perhaps the worst of all the verdict was being TURNED OUT of the Garden, out of God's personal presence. They would live in the "wilderness" from which he had been made. The garden had been convenient with ample food and refreshment with restful work. Now the work would be hard in the wilderness. There would be no fellowship with God, no instruction in right and wrong. They had made the choice to discover right and wrong on their own. Their lack of prayer would be a hallmark of their lives all the way to the flood itself. It would be several years before men would call on the name of the LORD. We never read of the couple praying. Instead they had to watch*

many generations of their own children in violence, rebellion, and crude and cruel behavior. Perhaps, grossest of all, they watched their offspring become wicked half-breed children of the Sons of God. Humanity plunged into deep darkness all for the lack of prayer. This is the stuff from which the mythologies of the world have been formed.