

Origins #2
How It All Goes Wrong?
January 21, 2024

- **When you see a movie, do you prefer to have the ending all wrapped up with a bow? Or do you like an ending that leaves you pondering the conclusion?**

Week two of our journey into Genesis. A story that is trying to understand how we got here, and is looking at forming us to live now. As we go further into the story, we will find that Genesis says less and more than we think it does.

We hear the Bible differently and beautifully when it is read in a community of people. As a group, read Genesis 3.

Adam and Eve, a man and a woman both reflect God's image in unique ways. They are helpers, this is not an inferior term, but a term of companionship and intimacy. They live in a garden called Eden, a beautiful place that has a river with two trees. They are told they can eat from the Tree of Life, but not the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Tree of Life gives life, the Tree of Knowledge gives some kind of universal knowledge and if they eat, they are told they will die. It is important to note this was not a threat but a boundary.

Genesis 3:1

"Now **the serpent** was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, **'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?'"**

Genesis 3:4-5

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. **"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil."**

- **What is the difference between this being a threat or a boundary?**
- **Adam and Eve have been given the whole earth as their domain. They must feel on top of the world. Everything is going fine. Why do you think it was easy for them to fall into this temptation when all was so good?**
- **How often have we felt as if all is well? Do you think this feeling allows us to be even more susceptible to temptation?**

The serpent presented the people with an alternative way of life apart from God.

Genesis 3:6-7

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree **was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.** She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 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.**"

They do not drop dead instantly, but things are not the same anymore. Life is no longer safe, they believe they must protect themselves, even from God.

- **It is easy to feel as if we must protect ourselves. Be honest as you answer the question: Have you ever felt as if you needed to protect yourself from God?**

Why two trees?

Freedom must include the ability to cross boundaries. God will not coerce, force, or control. When we ground Christian faith in control, it's no longer Christian. Freedom matters to God and so boundaries are given but not forced.

- **Do you think ultimately the serpent led Adam and Eve to believe God did not love them?**
- **Why does the belief that God does not love us lead to sinful choices?**

What did humanity do wrong?

Eating the tree was rooted in rebellion, not disobedience. Be like God. Don't be satisfied and content, fulfill your desires... become more! As a result, humanity places itself at the center of creation.

- **Talk about a time that you got caught doing something you were not meant to do.**
- **What was your true motivation?**

Genesis 3:21-24

"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.' So, the Lord **God banished him from the Garden of Eden** to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."

Repent

It means to turn around, to go in a new direction, to change allegiances. It's both turning away and turning toward. You can't just add God, you have to remove something(s) and center Him.

- **Why is the concept of sin important to society? And if it is important, why do so many people push back against the concept of sin?**

PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR GROUP

How does this message lead you to pray?

PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH PARTNERS

Pray for FCCHB global nonprofit partner, Ibero American Ministries, as they serve refugees in Kurdistan, N. Iraq. At this time, it is very cold and many families do not have the supplies they need for winter. Pray that our partners can make helpful connections to serve as many families as possible.