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Sermon Notes

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The Fall of Mankind & The Beginning of Redemption Genesis 3

I. The Constant Devastation of Sin; the Greater Grace of God

“Single events don’t make a lifetime”... but there are some which do

II. Temptation, Sin, and Guilt (vs. 1-7)

A. The Tempter Comes

1. Devil never mentioned: Satan’s disguises
 - a. serpent “crafty”... a fit animal to be used
 - b. greater masquerade: “I am the one with your best interests at heart”
2. Fall of Satan had already occurred
3. God’s purpose: the judgment of the devil

1 Corinthians 6:3 “Do you not know that we will judge angels?”

- Adam was to have rebuked the devil & judged him, as Jesus did in the desert
- Hell had been made ready, all Adam had to do was send the devil there

Matthew 25:41 “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

B. Satan’s strategy

1. Go on the offensive: Boldly attack, rather than passively accept
2. Approach the woman
3. Attack God’s Word
 - a. by questioning: “Did God really say...?”

- b. by contradiction: “You will not surely die!!”
- 4. Attack God’s character
 - a. “God is holding out on you”
 - b. “I have your best interests at heart”
 - c. Lies from the Father of lies!!

John 8:44 “When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

In effect, Satan was putting God in his place, and he in God’s place... Adam should have crushed this subtle liar by a clear testimony of the goodness of God

C. The Temptation Conquers (Genesis 3:6... one of the saddest verses in the entire Bible)

It’s hard to understate the amount of grief and pain that has come from the effects of the sin described here

- 1. The woman succumbs to its pull

1 John 2:15-16 “Do not love the world or anything in the world...For everything in the world—the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the boastful pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.”

- 2. The New Religion: polytheism
 - a. obeys Satan
 - b. worships self
 - c. acquires new stance to the Word of God... I’ll stand over it and judge it
 - d. becomes a missionary
- 3. The woman entices the man, who disobeys God

“She also gave some to her husband who was with her.”

- a. human instrument of the devil... (we all tempt each other)

2 Timothy 2:25 “...escape the trap of the devil, who has taken him captive to do his will.”

- Eve persuaded Adam... she talked him into it
- Now that the woman was in league with the devil, the man should have judged them both

b. key question: where had the man been all this time??

vs. 6 “She also gave some to her husband who was with her.”

c. He ate, fully knowing what he was doing

1 Timothy 2:14 “Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.”

Two types of sin: sin in ignorance, willful sin... both deserve judgment from God

Psalm 19:12-13 “Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.”

D. Immediate Consequences: Shame and Broken Relationships

1. Shame with each other: fig leaves to cover guilt
2. Shame with God: hiding behind the trees (conscience)
3. So much has already been lost!
 - a. complete freedom with one another... openness
 - b. confidence before God
 - c. principles of death already working in

III. Judgment Day (vss. 8-19)

A. God’s sounds: His voice, His wind

1. Only voice of the Lord can cut through our self-righteousness
2. God speaks as he moves through the garden...
 - a. “walking” = anthropomorphism
 - b. God is spirit

- c. yet, uses human expressions: the **hand** of the Lord, the **eyes** of the Lord, the **arm** of the Lord
- d. real issue is we are in His image... our capabilities are a dim reflection of his

Ps. 94:9 Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does He who formed the eye not see?

God had probably used this sound of "walking in the garden" before to identify His approach... this time the sound terrified Adam & Eve

3. "In the cool of the day"

Lit. "In the ruach of the day" or "the wind of the day" or the "spirit of the day"

- a. wind frequently associated with judgment

[on the kingdoms of the world] *Daniel 2:35 "The wind swept them away without a trace."*

[ultimately on all the wicked] *Psalms 1:4 "They are like chaff that the wind blows away."*

- b. God comes with a sound that terrified Adam & Eve...

vs. 8 "...they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden."

Seeking a better covering for their sin than the fig leaves: God calls them to account

B. God's four questions (vs. 9-13)

1. "Where are you?"

- a. fellowship with God destroyed

vs. 10 "He answered, 'I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.'"

- b. previously Adam promptly came to his Creator & his Father... now he hides
- c. Adam & Eve hid from God... God will soon hide Himself from them
- d. NOTE also: fear of coming judgment

Hebrews 10:27 "...a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."

YET: this is the very fear that is removed by faith in Christ

Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’”

2. “Who told you that you were naked?” (vs. 11)

- a. Adam & Eve had previously been “naked and unashamed...”
- b. sin had corrupted their freedom
- c. God’s question is never answered... but He draws the obvious conclusion

3. “Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” (vs. 11)

- a. NOTE: God upholds creation order by this questioning (man, then woman, then serpent)
- b. ALSO: God ASKS Adam to answer for himself... God knows fully well what Adam’s done

Hebrews 4:13 “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.”

- c. stewards must prove faithful... stewards will someday give an account
- d. Adam’s response: “Blame shifting” (vs. 12)
 - It’s the woman’s fault
 - It’s YOUR fault

4. “What is this you have done?” (vs. 13)

- a. both male and female accountable for their actions
- b. the woman must answer for her rebellion
- c. like her husband, she shifts the blame as well

Both the man and woman have become like the devil... shifty, crafty, hardly loving the truth

C. God’s curses

“Cursed” = under the wrath and judgment of God

1. Judgment on the Serpent (vs. 14-15)

- a. no need for inquiry, no opportunity for self-defense
 - b. animal world not accountable, yet under the curse
 - c. Satan IS accountable, but cannot speak at God's bar of judgment
2. Animal aspect: you came in a crafty, slithering way... you'll do it the rest of your existence
- a. crafty in temptation, lowly in judgment
 - b. humiliated and degraded... the opposite of Satan's lofty pride; **EAT DUST**
3. Spiritual aspect
- a. God speaking to the devil here
 - b. Satan had sought a covenant relationship... alliance between humans & himself
 - c. God instead institutes holy war: the woman would come to hate the devil through loving God again
 - d. even more, her seed would constantly oppose the devil's seed

For the rest of Scripture, children of God & children of the devil are in direct conflict... beginning with Cain & Abel through to the present-day

Seth's godly lineage would be persecuted bitterly by the sons of the devil... in effect, holy war is declared here

- e. ultimately: seed of the woman would crush Satan's head

vs. 15 "He will crush your head, and you will bruise his heel."

- Culmination of the holy war: the advent of the serpent-slayer
- This can be none other than Jesus Christ

Galatians 4:4 "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law."

- Here is the first prophecy of Christ, of His death & His triumph over Satan

Satan would mobilize his seed throughout history to try to destroy the lineage of the woman... in Jesus' own lifetime, Jesus said to His persecutors

John 8:44 “You are of your father, the devil.”

- They would precipitate His bruised heel
- Jesus would use His bruising to crush Satan’s head
- He would give the fruits of His victory to the godly seed

4. The Curse on the Woman (vs. 16)

- a. striking directly at her unique role in the filling of the earth
- b. childbearing painful... not just labor, but the pain of **barrenness** and **miscarriage**
- c. relationship with husband: power struggle where there had been harmony
 - Woman’s “desire” = jealous, covetous, like a lioness waiting to pounce

Genesis 4:7 “Sin is crouching at the door; it desires to have you, and you must master it.”

- She wants to dominate, but in the cursed world she will be cruelly dominated
- None of this was God’s intention... servant leadership by the husband, woman the glory of the man...

5. The Curse on the Man (vs. 17-19)

- a. reason: listening to his wife instead of God’s clear command
- b. ground cursed because of Adam
 - Adam king over earth... earth included in curse
 - Physical creation subjected to frustration

Romans 8:20 “The creation was subjected to frustration...”

- c. Adam’s labor no longer a blessed experience, working side by side with God
 - Like the woman, his assigned role remains, but is made cruel and painful
 - **Drought, famine, long hours of fruitless toil, locusts, diseased crops**

- ALSO earthquakes, firestorms, volcanos, hurricanes
- Every day a struggle for survival
- Ultimately, Adam would lose the battle & sink back into the dust

d. DEATH: the promised curse

vs. 19 “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken. For dust you are, and to dust you will return.”

- Rather than being like God, they are to slip back into dust
- Apart from God, we are nothing... dust on the scales of eternity which the wind of God will ultimately blow away

6. Original Sin

- a. at the Tree, Adam represented the entire human race
- b. his sin brought us all under the wrath and curse of God

Romans 5:12-13 “Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men because all sinned...”

- c. every descendent of Adam born is born a sinner
- d. as soon as that child understands right & wrong, they do wrong

7. Ultimate redemption: also through One Man

- a. “not fair!!” ???
- b. our salvation works the same way!

Romans 5:19 “Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

1 Corinthians 15:22 “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

IV. Life After the Curse (vs. 20-24)

Satan hoped to destroy God's plan for covering the world with his image and likeness ... God instead had a whole salvation plan worked out, and the wearisome journey begins here

A. Adam's hope: Eve's offspring (vs. 20)

v. 20 *“Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all living.”*

1. Adam's role in marriage: still covenant head

2. Elevates Eve's role as bearer of the Serpent-slayer... **Adam's word of faith**

B. God's provision: sacrifice (vs. 21)

1. Second prophetic indication of Christ's salvation: animal sacrifice

- Two types of prophecy both evident here: verbally predictive in vs.15, and types

2. Animal died as a substitute to cover their shame

C. God's punishment: banishment from Eden (vs. 22-24)

1. The danger: short-cut to eternity

2. Banishment from Eden

3. Cherubim set guard... flashing sword a clear message

The way to the tree of life is by death... the serpent-slayer will open Eden again by submitting to the flaming sword of God's judgment

4. Even here, there is hope... the tree of life is not removed or destroyed

Salvation is still possible

V. Application

Understand: all the agony, grief, pain, suffering, torment, and death in all human history has come from sin

1. Hate sin with all your being!!
2. Cling to God's word and obey it!!
3. Submit to God's wise chastisements for sin... don't kick at them
4. See the salvation provided and run to it!!

Constant Devastation of Sin:

- Funeral services in Fort Worth, Texas: Wedgwood Baptist Church... Larry Gene Ashbrook walked in a killed seven people before committing suicide; among the victims were a Sunday School teacher studying to be a youth minister, a seminary student who's smile lit up every room into which she walked, a church soloist who tutored inner city youth, and a high school student who's life was just opening up
- Crack epidemic in New York City waning, but still strong
- AIDS in Africa... 11 million Africans have died in the last 15 years
- Problem for social workers: Deadbeat dads refusing to pay child support
- Multi-national fleet sailing from Australia to East Timor in Indonesia to try to bring stability to that region rocked by anarchy and roving bands of militia; people have fled to the mountains for their lives and UN airlifts are continuing to bring them food
- Turkey, a story about a 13-year old who lost his mother in the earthquake there last month

Twentieth-century draws to a close:

- Three greatest murderers of all time: Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, together responsible for the deaths of well over 100 million people
- Even more have suffered and died from various diseases whose pain was not felt to this degree until this century: cancer, heart disease, viral infections
- More have died from natural disasters: earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, volcanoes... in this century than any other by far

YET the 20th century not different at all in character from the previous 19 centuries... simply in scope

Time and again, the same question screams to be answered... WHY???

Romans 5:12 “Sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men because all sinned...”

Romans 5:20 “...where sin increased, grace increased all the more...”