

TEACHING TEXT. GENESIS 3 : 1-24

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?' " The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "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."

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.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me —she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 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."

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. 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.

SIN AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

BEING AT THE LIBERAL MEETING DOWNTOWN

Amazing grace THAT SAVED A SOUL LIKE ME
IN CHRIST ALONE

And on the cross as Jesus died, the love of God was magnified.

“Certainly nothing offends us more rudely than this doctrine [of original sin]; and yet, without this mystery, the most incomprehensible of all, we are incomprehensible to ourselves.”

— Blaise Pascal

NY TIMES ARTICLE RAISING MY CHILDREN WITHOUT SIN

And after years of living a “secular” life, I realized that my notion of sin has evolved. As a girl, my focus was on gaining admittance to heaven. Now I believe that this life is the only life we’ll know; this planet, our only existence. I am no longer motivated by fear of an unproven hell, but by real-world concerns about injustice and inequality. To me, the greatest sin of all is failing to be an engaged citizen of the world, so the lessons are about being open to others rather than closed off.

An explanation of sin could wait.”

SECULAR PERSON TODAY.

Magic trees and fruit, talking snakes, curses over all creation.

This is just bronze age myths. The world shouldn’t take it seriously

“The only . . . redemption people like me can offer is a manmade social utopia, in which social conditions are such that kindness is a lot more frequent than malice.”
Richard Rorty

There is something profound going on in this passage. Because it shows us both the beauty and brutality of humanity.

The question isn’t whether you’re going to believe, but who; it’s not merely about what to believe, but who to entrust yourself to. Do you really want to trust yourself? Do we really think humanity is our best bet? Do we really think we are the answer to our problems, we who’ve generated all of them?

James K.A. Smith

The heart of understanding the difference between “sins” and “Sins” is a deconstruction of modern, Victorian notions of wrongdoing. “Let us be quite clear about what Sin is. Let us not trivialize it or domesticate it. Sin is not a matter of a few sins here and a few sins there. What is Sin? Sin is the basic condition of man, the condition of rebellion against God, in his place. Sin is ‘mankind's essential ill-ness,’ it is a condition we are all heir to, it is a demonic Power that enslaves us and binds us and prevents us from being either free or good.

We are responsible before God for Sin, and yet we are unable to liberate ourselves from its grip. We are in a desperate situation, deserving of God's Wrath and marked out for his judgment, each of us individually and all of us collectively.” Indeed, it is only by “endeavoring to look Sin straight in the face” that we are able to understand grace— . . . sentimental evasions are long-range cruelties . . . an experience of the worst of the problem (is) the opportunity to know the best of the solution.”

Fleming Rutledge

1-REBELLION, LIES, THE SOVEREIGNTY OF SELF

A-CHARACTER ASSASSINATION OF GODS GOODNESS

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’? ”

DOUBT AND DEBATE

Did God really say?

Who God is. The Lord Jehovah. Covenant God

Elohim. Generic term for God

Eve's reply showed that she was following Satan's example and altering the very Word of God.

Compare 3:2-3 with 2:16-17 and you'll see that

1-she omitted the word “freely,”

2-added the phrase “nor shall you touch it”

3-and failed to say that God “commanded” them to obey.

So, she took from God's Word, added to God's Word, and changed God's Word, which are serious offenses indeed

QUESTIONING HIS CARE AND GOODNESS

You cannot trust him.
He is withholding from you

What Satan does is focus on the one thing that God **forbade, exaggerate it**, and make that the entire focus of attention in order to sneak in the assumption that whatever else God is, he's an almighty killjoy. He exists to make life as miserable as possible for you

YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

John Zizioulas Modern Greek Orthodoxy theologian. sees sin as elevating the self into the place of God, and making the self “the ultimate reference-point of existence.”

Even the briefest of glances over the “Mind, Body, Spirit” or “Popular Psychology” sections of a high-street book shop leaves you in no doubt that the pursuit of self-awareness, self-esteem, wholeness and well-being is paramount. To be self-centered is a twenty-first century virtue, for no “Other” can be trusted to being the “good life” craved by the postmodern. One who fails at “project self” (a failure defined by the individual’s own ideas of success based upon cultural and social influences) must gaze into the mirror and confess: “Against you alone have I sinned.”

Alan Mann

B-LIES ABOUT AUTONOMY AND FLOURISHING

5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

authēntēō, (a worker); to act of oneself, i.e. (fig.) dominate:— usurp authority over. Note: I found it interesting that this is one of the cognates for our word “authenticity,” and it means to usurp authority.

FREEDOM FROM VS FREEDOM TO

“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”
Justice Anthony Kennedy

AUGUSTINE. THE SHACKLES OF GRATIFICATION

STORY OF EATING HEALTHY GROWING UP.

THEN THE SAME WITH SEX, LYING, POWER, MONEY.

LIES ABOUT CONSEQUENCES

Genesis 3:4-5 (NIV) 4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman

Sin is the suicidal abandonment of joy.

Piper

It is a terrible and terrifying thing to know what you want to be and then realize you're the only one standing in your way—to want with every fiber of your soul to be someone different, to escape the “you” you've made of yourself, only to fall back into the self you hate, over and over and over again. After the thrill of independence and experiments in self-actualization, drinking your so-called “potential for Being” to the dregs, when the exhaustion starts to set in and then eventually morphs into a kind of self-disgust, you can reach a point where you know you want a different life but are enchainied to the one you've made

James K.A. Smith

“For wherever the human soul turns itself, other than to you, it is fixed in sorrows, even if it is fixed upon beautiful things.”

Augustine

REBELLION.

Genesis 3:6 (NIV) 6 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.

“The second term in Hebrew is pāsha‘, meaning “rebellion,” “offense,” “revolt,” or “become alienated.” It essentially denotes a **deliberate breach of relationship.**” It is often translated as “transgression” an image of a clenched fist.

She saw that "the tree was good for food" (physically appealing) and "a delight to the eyes" (aesthetically appealing) and "to be desired to make one wise" (this is the great enticement - wisdom apart from God's word).

God's command seemed insubstantial. She could see no reason not to eat. So "she took of its fruit and ate."

WHERE IS ADAM???

Adam sinned willfully, eyes wide-open, without hesitation. His sin was freighted with sinful self-interest. He had watched Eve take the fruit, and nothing happened to her. He sinned willfully, assuming there would be no consequences. Everything was upside-down. Eve followed the snake, Adam followed Eve, and no one followed God. The result was seismic:

CRIMINAL COURT TO A CIVIL COURT

All sin has first and finally a Godward force. Let us say that a sin is any act — any thought, desire, emotion, word, or deed — or its particular absence, that displeases God and deserves blame. Sin is a culpable and personal affront to a personal God

Plantinga

LIES WE STILL BELIEVE

DID GOD REALLY SAY?

SEXUALITY. MONEY. POWER. VALUES. BELIEFS.

YOU CANT TRUST HIM...

YOU WONT DIE. YOU CAN SIN WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE

ALL ROOTED IN FEAR.

AQUINAS FEAR IS LIKE A CITY UNDER SEIGE.

"The more I make my life, my well-being, my enlightenment, and my success primary, the farther I step from reality. Thus the hell-bound do not travel downward; they travel inward, cocooning themselves behind a mass of vanity, personal rights, religiosity, and defensiveness. Obsession with self is the defining mark of a disintegrating soul."

Jeff Cook

SHOW PHOTO OF WOMAN SNORTING LIKES

THE TRUTH ABOUT SIN AND REBELLION

SHAME NOT TRANSCENDENCE

V. 7 *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.*

"While guilt is a painful feeling of regret and responsibility for one's actions, shame is a painful feeling about oneself as a person."

— Fossum and Mason

ALL THE YOUR AWESOMES DON'T WORK

Friend taking crystal meth to get rid of his conscience

HIDING

8 *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

MODERN FIG LEAVES

To put it simply, if I know the story I am telling you is a "cover" story, then the most sensible thing to do is presume that the self-story you are narrating does not tell me who you really are either. The chronically shamed live in the shadow of their cover story. The result is that shamed people are afraid to merge their lives, their personal stories, with others because of a fundamental lack of trust in relating.

Atonement for a sinless society

SEPARATION

23-24 *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.*

Our life-long nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index of our real situation.

-C.S. Lewis

WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES

SELF ACTUALIZATION

THE PHARISEES

*“Without you, what am I to myself but a guide to my own self-destruction?”
Augustine*

DIVINE MERCY IN LIGHT OF OUR REBELLION

If what human beings need above all else is better health, then may God give us doctors. If what human beings need above all else is more economic justice, then may God give us economists. If what human beings need above all else is better government, then God give us better politicians. If what we need above all else is the forgiveness of our sin, if what we need above all else is reconciliation with the God who made us, then we need a Saviour.

— D.A. Carson

GOD PURSUES. “WHERE ARE YOU?”

8-9Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “where are you?”

GOD COVERS.

21. The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

GOD PROMISES.

Genesis 3 : 15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

JESUS, OUR SALVATION

**Jesus seeks and saves the lost
Jesus covers sinners and welcomes those clothed with shame.**

Jesus tells us the truth.

Jesus us welcomes us back as a door to the father's presence.

Jesus fulfils Gods promises of salvation for us.

"The early church retained the various metaphors for sin from the Old Testament but reframed them around Christ's life, teaching, death, and resurrection. Sin is seen as a burden, but one that has been borne by Christ. It is a debt, but one that has been paid by Christ. It is an offense, but one that has been removed by Christ. It is an illness, but one that can be healed by Christ. It is defiling, but one can be made pure through Christ....in addition to the traditional Jewish metaphors for sin, we see in the New Testament battle imagery applied to one's struggle against sin. Paul, for instance, calls the church in Rome 'conquerors'

Anthony C. Thiselton

JESUS AS THE SECOND ADAM

Adam, garden, tree. Jesus, garden, tree

Think about this. Adam and Eve were in a bright sunny garden, and God said, "Obey me about the tree, and you will live," and they didn't. Jesus Christ was in a dark garden, and God said, "Obey me about the tree, and you'll be crushed," and he did, for us. Here's what he did. He climbed the tree of death and turned that tree of death, the cross, into a tree of life for you and me. There's the reversal of the tree sin.

Keller

JESUS WANTS TO SAVE YOU.

COME HOME.

IS YOUR CONSCIENCE GUILTY.

HAVE YOU DOUBTED IS WORD AND BECOME YOUR OWN GOD

ARE YOU LOST

ARE YOU SHAMED

ARE YOU IN HIDING

AMAZING GRACE CAN SAVE A WRETCH LIKE YOU

BECAUSE ON THE CROSS AS JESUS DIED, THE WRATH OF GOD

WAS SATISFIED

COME HOME