

The First Question Sermon Notes

The book of Genesis records creation and the first conversations. In these conversations, we can clearly see the motives behind the one asking questions.

1. The first question the devil asked was whether God intentions are good.

“He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1, ESV)

- The answer is **no**. God said, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **but** of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:16, 17). Eve echoed this command and added “nor shall you touch it” (3:3b).
- One of Satan’s primary weapons against us is to get us to question the goodness of God and to get us to doubt the truthfulness of His Word (reference Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness, Luke 4:9-12).

And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

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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,^[a] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

2. The first question that God asked was about us.

“But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9, ESV)

- Adam answered, ““I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself” (3:10).
- God is always looking for us. The original sin may have broken the fellowship with God, but not the relationship (see the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-31).
- Jesus made an emphatic promise in John 10:28, 29 regarding His disciples, “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and He is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.”

3. The first question a man asked was about his responsibilities.

“Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4:9, ESV)

- The answer is **yes**. While the Bible is full of rugged individualists (Abraham, Moses, David, and Paul to name a few), each one was used by God to lead and inspire thousands of people who then carried this same mission to those they were called to serve.

- The Apostle Paul instructed the Galatians to “bear one another’s burden” (6:2) and that each one is “to bear his own load” (6:5). These are not contradictory, but reflect that by using two different Greek words, Paul is instructing the Christian community to help one another when the need is great while also fulfilling one’s own personal responsibilities; a perfect balance.

Epilogue: God evicted Adam and Eve from the Garden to prohibit them from eating from the Tree of Life and be doomed to live forever in a fallen condition (Genesis 3:22). The New Jerusalem has at its center the Tree of Life whose leaves were for “the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2). What was lost in the Fall will be restored in the New Heaven!

