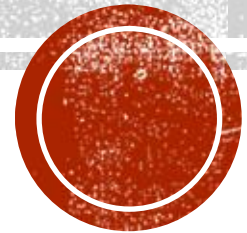


GENESIS 2:25 AND 3:1-7
SIN, SHAME, AND THE PLAN



HEY EVERYBODY

Softball warmup question:

What if you hadn't come to bible study this morning. What would you be doing right now?

Slightly less softball:

If you could re-do something from the last week, or year, how would you re-do it or do it differently?



GENESIS 2:25

Genesis 2:25: *And the man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.*

- What did you guys conclude about this verse?
- What do you think it means? Why is it here where it is?
- How would you define “shame?”

Shame is the pain we feel when we believe others think badly of us.



GENESIS 2:25

Genesis 2:25: And the man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

- What/when are some moments in your life when you have felt shame?
- So why didn't Adam and Eve feel any shame? What did they know that we don't? Or what did they not know that we do?
- Shame is certainly one of the ways that we are deceived in our thinking. We can think that God despises us, or does not love us, or that we are unlovable. Do you think shame is a good, God-given emotion? Do you believe God wants us to feel shame?
- How does shame impact our mutual discipleship?



GENESIS 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” 4 The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die! 5 For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 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 desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves waist coverings.



GENESIS 3:1-7

- Much ink has been spilled over the fact that Eve appears to mis-quote God's instructions regarding the tree. We're not going to get into that.
- There's also a fair amount of discussion about how Eve was alone and Adam was absent. We're not going to get into that either.
- What kind of lies is the serpent suggesting to Eve?
- Why does the serpent care?
- What are the modern analogues of these lies? How do they relate to the lies we tell ourselves?



GENESIS 3:1-7

- Was Adam and Eve's decision a deviation from God's plan? Are we living in God's optimal plan, or are we in plan B? What indication of this do we have from Scripture?
- See Ephesians 1:11-12, Acts 2:23, 1 Peter 1:20
- Trick question – when did God make this plan?
- What does the doctrine of God's omniscience imply about how He experiences time? How is this different from ours?
- Is God capable of disappointment, or unmet expectations? How does this relate to the doctrine that God is unchanging? (Why did I quit enjoying honey as a kid?)
- Would God ever need to adjust his plan for new developments?



GENESIS 3:1-7

- What emotion are Adam and Eve feeling for the first time when they cover themselves and hide in the garden? What does this show us about what they believe about God?
- WHY do they feel shame? Why do they believe that God, who once thought good of them, now thinks badly of them?
- Conclusions:
 - Adam and Eve projected their own sinful thinking on to God. They now saw themselves as disgusting, and assumed He must think the same
 - Adam and Eve learned something new about themselves that they did not like. They projected this experience onto God, who had learned nothing new.
 - Adam and Eve changed – God did not.
 - Shame before God is never appropriate, because God’s opinion of us is unchanging. It is an aggregation of all His emotions, and is still best characterized as “love.”



APPLICATION

- If God does not want us to feel shame before Him, how does this affect how we treat others? If we can say “God knows everything about me, and loves me anyway,” how should this guide us when we discover sin in people around us?
- How should we respond when other people discover new things about us and think badly of us as a result?
- How can we unpack how much of our decision making is motivated by shame, or the fear of shame? (hint – it’s a LOT!!). How do we identify this thinking and get rid of it?

