



Voices and Choices

Part 1

June 2, 2024

The Book of Genesis 3:1-13, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”² 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.”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, 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.⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today in Jesus Name, Amen!

Voices and Choices... We live in a world that is overflowing with influencers. Influencers to buy products, influencers to promote how we dress, what we buy, what we invest in, what we go in debt to purchase. Influencers are everywhere because the goal is to influence you to buy into or to purchase or to partner with the ideology behind the influencer. This concept is nothing new and can be traced back to the fall of man; the activity of an influencer to influence its audience to respond or follow through with a certain action.

In genesis chapter 3, we have the Serpent, the influencer, sowing seeds of doubt and suspicion into Eve's heart and mind regarding the commandment of God to mankind; do not eat of the tree in the midst of the garden or death shall come upon you. And through the words of deceit, the influencer influenced the now deceived woman to do what is forbidden. And all of this happened because of one thing... they listened to the wrong voice...

And regrettably, the byproduct of the fall of man was sin and death but it also destroyed the marriage union between Adam and Eve. Mankind lost their capacity for relationship with God and with others all because sin was birthed in the life of man because of the wrong voice having more influence than the Voice of God Himself.

We must all ask ourselves an honest question today... What voice are you listening to? Because every voice brings with it a choice... And with this in mind, today I am going to focus today on the voices that seek to influence your marriages because not every voice should wield the right of influence.

1) If We are Unwilling to Discern the Voices that Seek to Speak into Our Lives, Our Marriages will be Plagued with Confusion!

- a) 1 Corinthians 14:33, “³³ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.”
- b) When we discern the voices, we are determining intent as much as we are determining prudence
- c) Not every person who wants to speak should have the right to do so; I do not care who they are nor whether they are family or not. Not every person who wants to speak should have the right to do so.
- d) No other voice should wield more power outside of your marriage than that of the voice of the Husband and Wife together in the home.
- e) You must establish clear boundaries in your marriage in so that both you do not offend, upset, or violate trust; when we violate the frame of our home then our home will be infested with confusion.

f) Remember that If We are Unwilling to Discern the Voices that Seek to Speak into Our Lives, Our Marriages will be Plagued with Confusion!

2) If We are Unwilling to Discern the Voices that Seek to Speak into Our Lives, Our Marriages will be Trapped in Division!

a) Proverbs 19:20, “Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.”

b) Listening to advice and accepting instruction is crucial to success however we have to ensure we are receiving advice and instruction and not opinions and feelings on the matter.

c) If you ever make the mistake of giving more influence to the outside voices, then you have doomed the relationship and have violated trust.

d) Young married couples, your parents should never wield more influence in your home than your spouse does.

e) Young married couples, when you get married, your best friend is now the one whom you bed down with every evening and not the one you text on the phone.

- f) Young married couples, do not ever discuss your marital issues with another married couple that is struggling as well; some information can be weaponized and a person take advantage of the situation to walk into your marriage and walk out with your spouse.
- g) Mrs. Ashley is my “best good friend” as I refer to her in private; I have dear friends in my life. Friends I trust deeply but Mrs. Ashley is my best good friend and if we encounter a tough season, we are going to seek seasoned council and not illegitimate council.
- h) If the person doesn't have a track record of success then I am not going to submit myself to their council.
- i) Remember today that If We are Unwilling to Discern the Voices that Seek to Speak into Our Lives, Our Marriages will be Trapped in Division!

3) If We are Unwilling to Discern the Voices that Seek to Speak into Our Lives, Our Marriages will be Destroyed by the Power of a Third Voice!

- a) Remember verses 2-4 of our opening text, “² 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.”

- b) The moment that Eve entertained a third voice and Adam did not silence it, division came and destruction followed. The head of the home did not guard against the influencer and the influencer not only sowed division between Eve and God, he sowed it between Eve and Adam.
- c) Now how I can state that Scripturally? The Book of Genesis 2:15-22, ¹⁵“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ 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.” ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not

found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”

- d) The Book of Genesis chapter in verses 15-22 records that God told Adam to not eat before Eve was ever created. Adam was the one who told Eve to not eat and not God Himself; not only did Satan sow discord in Eve towards God, he also sowed it towards Adam. Thus deception was birthed and destruction followed.
- e) Now why is this contextually important to us? Because if we do not guard our homes, our marriages and our relationship with God, Satan will sow seeds of division and destroy all three. He comes to kill, steal and destroy and he is an equal opportunity destroyer. So I close with this question: who are you listening to? What voices are speaking and what choices are you making?
- f) Remember that If We are Unwilling to Discern the Voices that Seek to Speak into Our Lives, Our Marriages will be Destroyed by the Power of a Third Voice!