

Harris Creek Baptist Church
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Adam and Eve

Genesis 1-3

Happy Father's Day to the dads. I am grateful for you and the role that you play here and in the church. I am excited to carry on this series. (JP is holding marshmallows) Anybody want one, I just washed my hands. True story. Would that benefit your church experience? What did you say over here? I do not know if I can get you (JP begins tossing marshmallows) I feel like it went right behind you. Anybody else? I saw one right here. Oh, she is like I did not sign up for that when I came to church. There you go. We have some over here. Are you ready? Oh – one more time. One more time. Got it, got it, got it! Alright, I could do that all day.

In the 70s there was a professor at Stanford University who conducted an experiment called the marshmallow test. And it was an experiment on delayed gratification. And so, what he did was he took some children, put them in a room, placed a marshmallow in front of them and said, "If you do not eat it, you will get two." He left the room for a number of minutes and then he came back and if they did not eat the marshmallow, they got two. And what was interesting – as it was a long-term study – they followed these children throughout life, and they found that those who were able to resist the immediate temptation of the marshmallow did better in life. Just by SAT scores, different educational values, even their own physical health and different measurements in life – they were more successful. And so, it is this idea that sometimes we face temptation and the greatest thing we can do is to withstand it; to avoid it.

Well, I got together with a group of pastors some time ago and we actually conducted our own marshmallow test and so watch this. (Video plays of the marshmallow experiment on screens. A brief summary is that some children waited, some immediately ate, some were distraught, and all were hilarious in their processing of the situation.)

The video has been viewed over 10 million times because there is something in there that resonates with us. In fact, I resonate most with the little girl who was eating it before the adult left the room. She was like, "Hey, why wait when I can have what it is that I want right now?" And I think so many of us, we approach life that way. And yes, maybe you are not struggling with eating a marshmallow, certainly you could resist that temptation. But as you grow older, it just changes. And there is something in our lives right now that we can't resist. In fact, for some of us – if we think about this, and I want to give you a minute to think through "What is it for me?" – what is that area of my life where I am just giving into temptation and I am totally okay with it. I have normalized my sin. It just marks me in this season. What is it? What is that thing for you?

Maybe it is something that you are believing about God. Maybe it is very normal for you to take a second look, to gauge things in your mind. Maybe it is very normal for you to buy things that you do not need – just because you can afford them. But every choice that you take to buy something that you don't need is a choice not to help someone else in need. What is that thing for you? Maybe it is you believing or thinking constantly what people think of you – finding identity in that. Maybe it is a discouragement towards God in this season. Maybe it is a hard heartedness. Where is this sin in our lives that we are just okay with?

I was speaking to a group of pastors recently and I said this – it was not in my notes – I just said, “Yeah, I am an addict to my phone. I am addicted to my phone.” And I said that in a message and one of the pastors followed up with me and just said, “I just wanted to let you know I was a little taken back by how comfortable you were to just be addicted to your phone.” If it is not pleasing to God, then there is a part of that that is killing you in ways you may not be aware of. And we should vigilantly try to remove sin from our lives. Not cohabit with it, not exist with it. What is that thing for you? Maybe it is the third glass of wine or the third drink that you are totally okay with. “God, I do not care what you say. I am going to do what I want to do when I want to do it.” And we are giving in to temptation.

And so that is kind of what we are talking about this morning. Giving into temptation – which is called sin. We are in this series, B.C., which stands for Before Christ, which is interesting right? That this man, this carpenter, born in Bethlehem, who lived in Nazareth reset our calendar 2,021 years ago. And so, we live in 2021 A.D. It does not stand for after death; it stands for Anno Domini – which is medieval Latin for “The Year of our Lord”. And prior to 2,021 years ago it was called B.C. or Before Christ – before Jesus shows up on the scene. That this carpenter somehow reset time. He stamped in the calendar that we utilize today. So that is the series where we are just going through stories in the Old Testament and today, we are going to look at where it all began. The Creation Story; but more than the creation story, the story of the fall. Where sin enters the world. The world is fractured, and it is not as it should be. The world that we live in is not as it should be. It is not God's first desire for the world. But take heart because He has a rescue plan.

As we move through Genesis chapter 1 and Genesis chapter 2 if you want to turn there, we are going to look at the consideration of sin, the consequences of sin, and before you leave today the cure for sin. In Genesis chapter 1 He set it, He spoke it into existence. It existed and it was good. This is the rhythm that you see. You begin to see the creative rhythm from the father, son, and holy spirit. He said, it was, and it was good. He said, it was, and it was good. And then He gets to this place where He creates humans – or a man – and He says, “It was very good.” So, we have this descriptive word – VERY good. And then He says that something is not good. What was it? That he was alone. It is not good for man to be alone. So, before sin enters the world, God says, “It is not good for a man to be alone.” And so, He creates woman.

I'll start in Genesis 2:15 – **“¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”** Now it is interesting that God places man in the garden with a test – we know that God tests us, but He

does not tempt us. And I have been surprised that a lot of Christian's do not know the difference. What does that mean that God tests us, but does not tempt us? You are going to learn this morning – we are going to talk exactly about that. So, God says, "Hey, you can play in paradise. You can swing from the trees. You can climb the trees. You can enjoy the animals and creation. There is a fruit, do not eat it or you will die." It is like if I send you to my favorite restaurant – really nice restaurant you are going there – at Summer Palace. And there you are, and I say, "You can eat anything you want. Enjoy the buffet, eat anything you want, but don't eat the sushi or you will die." "Enjoy everything, but do not touch the sushi." You are going to want to heed that warning. Right? And this is the only memory verse that they have. The entire Bible, at this moment in time, is really one command – don't eat the fruit. Okay. Do not do it. So, at this time, if you have got that verse memorized, you have the whole Scripture memorized, right?

It says, **"¹⁸ The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."** And so, God makes all the animals but then God says, **"for Adam no suitable helper was found."** And so, God makes a woman. And there they are, man and woman, and I know that some women do not like to be called a helper. They think that is insulting. Candidly, I think it is insulting to me – because it means we need help. It means we have to have help here because we do not know what we are doing. Right? And that word for helper, this is important that you understand, it is the word Ezer. And it is the same word God uses for himself. The Holy Spirit is called the Ezer or the Helper to humans. So, it is not an insult in anyway. It is actually a compliment of the heights form – that God gives a woman the same name that He uses for himself as helper.

Also, interesting aside here, science has not proven that all of humans came from one man and one woman. And the names these Atheist scientists gave that man, and that woman is Mitochondrial Eve and Chromosomal Adam. Okay. Interesting aside also, they show, as they have charted humanity, that there was a bottleneck at some point. Where all of creation got down to one family. Almost like there was a flood and an ark or something...

So, man and woman exist. They are in right relationship with God. Adam and his wife, this is huge, verse 25 this is how the chapter ends. It is one simple verse, **"Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."** Does not seem like a big deal, but you will never know that until you are faced to face with Jesus. You will never know that no shame. From this moment forward you will say, "Well what do they think about me?" You will walk in this subconscious or conscious insecurity of trying to win peoples approval. "Am I okay?" "Do they like me?" "Am I wanted?" "Am I loved?" And you will yearn for something in this lifetime because of what is about to happen. All you know is shame.

Genesis 3, it is heavy, **"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'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ 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.'" Interesting aside, this is the first act of legalism. She says you must not eat from it, and you must not touch it. God did not say you must not touch it. What she did is she took God's instructions and she added to them. This is what we are prone to do in religion. In religion, we take God's commands, and we add to**

those commands. And so maybe it is wisdom that you do not even touch the tree so that you are not tempted, but that is not what God instructed. He just said do not eat from the fruit. Adding to God's commands is legalism. And this is what Satan does. He says, "No! Not true." **4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 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."** God does not want you to be like God.

There is still the tremendous temptation in us today, even as you sit there, to desire to be like God. This is the sin that made the devil the devil. He did not want to worship God, he wanted to be like God. This is his mantra. He says, "Be like God. Build a palace, get comfortable and kick up your feet. Build bigger barns, store your stuff up there so that you can be like a god." And so, what we see here is the consideration of sin. Adam and Eve are presented with a choice. The consideration of sin is temptation. That is the word we give to it and that is my first point today.

1. The consideration of sin is temptation.

And temptation causes you to question what God says. So anytime, listen this is huge – this will serve you well as you leave here – anytime you are like, "Well is that what the Bible says?" "Is that what it says?" "Is that what it means?" Careful! Satan is at work. This is his modus operandi; this is where he lives. "Wait, wait, wait. Did God Really say..." He still works the same way today. "Man are you sure I should not do that?" And temptation causes you to question the goodness of God. "Is He good? It feels like He is withholding from me. I have followed Him and now I don't have this. How come He is withholding marriage from me? Or how come He is withholding a good marriage from me? Or how come He is withholding children from me? Or how come He is withholding professional career advancement from me? Is He really good!?" That is where Satan wants you to question the goodness of God. This is still very much how he works. And temptation is really just the question – do I trust God. Do you trust God? That is the proposition before you.

And so, God tests us, but He does not tempt us. What is the difference? He tests us with the tree in the garden – that is a test. Here it is. I created it and I put you with it – do not eat from it. So, He does test us. What He does not do is what the serpent did. "Hey, that fruit, you should eat it." God will never do that! See temptation, this is important, temptation exists between your two ears. Temptation always starts in the mind. Temptation is the consideration of sin. Meaning, you see two options – one to honor God and one not – and you look at the one that is not honoring God and you begin to justify and rationalize. "Well maybe it is God's provision. Maybe God would want me to. Maybe God would not care. Maybe that is not what His word says." That consideration is where the enemy is going to pull up a chair right beside you and say, "Hey! How have you been? It is good to see you! You should do that. Why not? You deserve... Treat yourself – self love man! Get you some." That is temptation. God will not do that. God will never persuade you or push you towards sin.

Let me give you an example. I am walking through the mall. I am broke and my electricity is about to be turned off. I am desperate for money. And this guy in front of me puts a pen in his pocket and \$100 bill falls out. No one sees it, no one knows, and he does not realize it. There it is on the ground, and I look at it. That is a test - all of that is external. Tests happen out here in the

open, temptation happens in the brain. Test happens on the outside – that is a test. But then, I begin to think, “Oh man – maybe this is God’s provision for me. Maybe God wants me to use it. Maybe that is Him and the guy will not notice it because no one saw it.” Now this is temptation. Do you see the difference? \$100 bill falling out, God is sovereign over that. But you giving consideration to the option that is not God-honoring, that is temptation. That is temptation.

And there is this message in our world today that is “You should be like God.” You should become a god. And this is Satan’s gameplan to get you to doubt God and to take the shortcuts. “Hey, you don’t have to wait until you are married.” “If God won’t let you have children, is He even good?” “You have been praying to Him and He is not answering you, He is not good – He has left you.” “He has forsaken you.” “He has forgotten you.” This what he says. It is still what Satan does today guys. He says, “He does not love you. And you should feel sorry for yourself. You need a break.” These are the words he uses, “You deserve...” It is like the mantra of our world right now. Of yourselves, self of. The opposite of loving God is not hating God. The opposite of loving God is not loving Satan. The opposite of loving God is loving yourself – or worshipping yourself I should say. Your worship of yourself is the opposite of you worshipping God. And again, this is central to the fall of Lucifer – the devil. And so how do we try to be God here? What do we feed so that we might be “God” here?

Satan’s offers are always counterfeit, but they are also really costly. You are never going to get away with sin. Sin is not just this puffy sugary sweet that if you eat it, you might add a few pounds. That is not sin, sin will kill you. And you have heard preachers say that, but you do not know what that means. We kind of exist out there not really understanding what it means that sin is going to kill us; that pride will kill us. You do not really fully grasp that. But Satan will come and what he offers is a counterfeit and it is costly, because he will say, “Hey you can be like God.”

What is interesting about this passage is that they were already like God. They were placed in the garden to rule over creation; to rule over the animals. To work the ground – work existed before the fall. To care for this place like God. God made them in His image. He made them like Him! He made them like gods. And Satan pulls up a chair beside them and says, “Hey you can be just like God if you just eat from that tree. He is trying to withhold good from and for you. And so, Eve should have reflected on her one memory verse, right. Don’t eat that! Which is to say that God’s word is your greatest weapon against temptation. The only offensive weapon in Ephesians 6 – the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. This is how you defeat the devil. You reflect on the truth that God has given you.

And even in your Life Groups as you are processing things, sometimes I think we are tempted toward pragmatism. And I will explain what I mean by that. Recently, in our Life Group, we were processing a buying decision. And my first knee jerk was to say, “Well can you afford it? You can afford it, so why not?” That is pragmatism – it does not deal with the heart of the issue. The heart of the issue is to say, “Ok in choosing to purchase that what are you choosing not to do? What needs around you are you not meeting because you are doing that? And how will you use that for the glory of God? Will you be open-handed with it? Is it going to pull your heart away from God or toward God?” You can do this with swimming pools, automobiles, houses, new neighborhoods, and anything. But this is the way that you process in Life Group – not just

pragmatism. Because when we are stuck in a decision that we really want, we should trust ourselves the least. Let me say it like this, I trust myself the least when I really, really, really want something. Because I am a master justifier. I am so good at it! I will spin Scriptures and I will be like, “Well God said...” or “I just sense from the Lord that I should...” Right? That is what we tend to do when we really, really want something. And that is why that Life Group is so important.

Verse 6 – **“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. 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.”** In verse 6 it says it offered to satisfy, it looked good, it offered control or wisdom. And Adam was with her, and he sat passively by and ate it too. And it is interesting that they attempted to cover themselves; they did not cover their eyes, they did not cover their mouths – the things dealing with the fruit. They covered their reproductive organs. Which is fascinating – we should stop there and ask, “I wonder why”. It is like the desires of our flesh, all of the sudden, were shameful now. What God has made good, the enemy turns and uses for evil.

“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,” Underline cool of the day if you write in your Bibles. **“and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so, I hid.”** The word translated cool of the day is the Hebrew word ruwach. That word is translated 92 times in the Scripture like a gush of wind; a movement of the spirit. And here, for whatever reason, the translators translated it to cool of the day. My personal opinion is that I do not think that is a good translation, because God is not casual with our sin. He is not out for a morning stroll. And in the Hebrew, this would read really fast! She saw the fruit, she took the fruit, she ate the fruit. And the Hebrew boy reading this in school would be on the edge of his seat, “What is going to happen! What is going to happen?” And then it says the Lord God and he would be like, “Oh man! God is there!” And I think He rushed in like a tsunami and asked, “What have you done? Oh man...what have you done? Eve, what have you done?”

We had a swimming pool once, and I was in the kitchen looking out the window and I see that scene that you never want to see. My daughter – my two-year-old – who cannot swim flailing in the water. She had fallen in. And I am not casual with that. It is as if I morph and all of the sudden, I am outside. I do not even know how I got there. I do not remember going through a door or a window – I am just outside as fast as I possible can. Moving toward her and getting her out of danger. And I say that because I want you to know that everything God does is restorative. And so, when He sees the choice that was made, He is moving toward it quickly to fix it. He has a plan to restore it; to make good of it again. He is not running from you when you sin, He is running towards you. It is important! He is not running from you when you sin, He is running towards you.

Verse 11 – **“11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”** God knows the answer to this. **“12 The man said,**

“The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Just like a man. ¹³ **Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”** **The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”** ¹⁴ **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.”** An aside, I actually believe that there is a good case made that the serpent was actually a lizard prior to this moment. And that at this moment, as a consequence of his sin, he was made a snake. That he lost his legs. ¹⁵ **And I will put enmity, I will put strife, between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”** ¹⁶ **To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”** ¹⁷ **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. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 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.”**

And what we see in this Scripture, are the consequences of their sin. Here is the creation that we exist in now, it is fallen, fractured, broken, dark, cloudy, it is not as it should be, and death enters into the world. They cover themselves with an animal skin, the first death that appears in the Scripture, that sin had to come from an animal that was no longer living. Prior to that moment, no death existed. And I am telling you that death should not be, and this is why you mourn death. When someone dies you experience sadness or grief it is because in your heart of hearts it should not be. That was not the original desire. This is an apologetic, even the sadness we experience at the loss of a human is evidence that we were made for another world. This is why Jesus wept at Lazarus grave. He did not weep because of Lazarus because He knows He is about to bring him back to life; He is about to turn him on like a TV. But He weeps at the existence of death; an awareness that sin had entered the world and now things are broken. And the realization that His body and His blood is the solution.

2. The Consequence of Sin is Death

It is not cute. It is not not a big deal. Your sin killed somebody. Your sin held Jesus on the cross; hands were pierced, feet were pierced, His side was pierced. He bled out because you wanted another drink. Because you wanted to go further than He said you should. Because someone came up to you and said, “Oh I was going to tell you...but I better not tell you.” And say, “Please tell me! Please tell me.” because you gossip. You killed someone. And so, sin, just to define it for you, it is an archery term. It means to miss the mark; to miss the bullseye. That is sin. So, anything outside of God’s best is sin. So just to show you my hamartiology, which is a big word that just means the study of sin. You might be like, “Oh I sin a couple times a week.” No, you have sinned dozens of times since you have been in this room. Like our fallen state is sin to show us that we desperately need a savior. You are judgmental, you are angry, you are put off, you are reliving ideas, you are distracted. Like these things are all not God’s best. They are less

then what God desires, and that slight miss requires the payment from Jesus. And so, to say it simply, to put a verse to it, sin is anything you do not trusting God. You might say, one might say, anything that is not done in faith is sin. That's Romans 14:23 by the way – anything that does not come through faith is sin. If you are like, "Is it sin or not?" well ask, "Is it an act of faith?" "Does it mark my desire to trust God?" It looked good, but it was not good. So, there are things that appear right, there is away that seems right to a person but in the end, it leads to death. So, do we trust God to define what is good?

This is what James 1 says, **"¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire..."** So, it is our desires that lead us astray. Right? Trust yourself the least when you really, really want something. **"¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."** This is the life cycle of sin. It starts in the mind, it turns to an action, and it leads to death every time. And so, the results of sin - we feel shame, we cover up, we justify, we blame. She did it, he did it, you get angry at God. "God why would you do this to me? How did you do this?" Put a stake in the ground, you are in dangerous ground. You are in a dangerous place when you begin to ask those questions.

They hid, they think God cannot see them. That is silly. Kids do this, right. They will try to convince you they did not do something. When the girls were younger, we have two daughters, when Presley was 4 and Finley was 2 and a half, they were out by the pool. At this time, we have a fence surrounding it because I learned my lesson. And they are standing right outside that fence. And I look inside the shallow end and there all these rocks on the bottom. And I come out and I am like, "Presley are you throwing rocks into the pool?" And she's like, "No" as she is opening her hand and all these rocks are falling to the ground. I said, "Presley, why would you throw rocks in the pool?" She was like, "I did not." I said, "Presley, a minute ago there were no rocks in the pool, now there are rocks in the pool and there are rocks in your hand. How did the rocks get into the pool?" And she looks me in the eye and says, "Finley did it."

Now here is the reality of Finley, she cannot release when she throws. We had played catch where she tries to throw the ball but holds onto it. So, I know that she cannot throw rocks into the pool, she is young – much younger than her sister. And so, I am like, "Presley, I don't think that Finley threw rocks into the pool." And she is like, "Yes, she did Daddy." So, I say, "Ok, well if Finley threw rocks into the pool, then she is going to get a spanking. Because she knows better than to throw rocks into the pool." And she says, "Ok Daddy, she should get a spanking. I am thinking you are cold-blooded man, wow! So, I am in this parenting dilemma, and I do not know what to do. So, I take Finley, I take her inside and I am sitting there praying Lord give me wisdom. I am not sure what to do. And so, I go back outside and say, "Presley, I want to give you one more chance. Your sister is about to get a spanking, but if you threw those rocks into the pool you need to own it. You need to apologize." She goes, "Daddy, I am really, really sorry that Finley threw rocks into the pool." Alright... And right about this time we had this guy living with us and he opens the window, and she just wants to get out of this situation and says, "Oh hi Matt!" And Matt goes, "Hi Presley! Did I just see you throwing rocks into the pool?" And I was like praise God! That was my out.

And that is the funny thing that we do when we start to look over our shoulder and wonder who saw us and who knows and who is aware. When the wicked (us) flee no one pursues them – the Proverbs says. When that is us, it is doubting God because God always sees us, we know this. God sees everything we do. And sometimes we care more about the opinions of others than the opinion of God who knows our thoughts and our hearts. And so, what the right reaction is when you sin is to turn to Him and say, “I am sorry. I did that. That was me. Lord I am so sorry! I am thankful for your son whom you sent to die for me.” And we repent. Listen friends, do not confuse confession with repentance. Confession identifies your sin; you say it out loud what you did. Repentance is your turning from it; you are saying I will not do that again. You are taking or making arrangements in your life so that you do not go back to which seeks to kill you. That is repentance.

Sin always has consequences. The consequences quickly – to the woman childbearing is now hard. Man, I heard it hurts. I have not done it myself, but it seems like there is a lot of screaming involved and pain. And there are miscarriages and loss. Things that should not be. It says your desire will be for your husband. Which I read that, and I am like, “Well that is not so bad. Let us get this sin show on the road – kind of glad about the fall.” That is not what it means. He says your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you. That word desire in Hebrew shows up one chapter later talking about pain. It says sin is at your door and it desires to rule over you. That is the phrase. He is saying that your desire will now be to rule over your husband. You guys are going to fight for the steering wheel. And I see this happen. I have an amazing wife; she is the best. If you know her you know that is true. To this day, we will be driving to the church – which is where I work everyday of my life – and she will be like, “Hey you need to exit here. You need to switch lanes. You need to turn here.” And I am like, “Hmmm...really? This turn right here. To this place? The one that I am at every single day?” And there you see there is a desire to grab the steering wheel. Men, that is your Father’s Day gift! You are welcome.

And to the man, he is passive. What we see here is that work is toilsome. We want to give Eve a hard time. Here is the reality about Eve, she was not there when God gave the instruction. He gave that instruction to Adam. And so, all she knows is what Adam told her. Now, the man sits idly by having received the instructions directly from God and these are the two temptations that men fall into today. One to be completely passive in the home. “You got that. You are good. I work and come home tired – you got that.” Or to completely find identity in their work – to say “This is who I am. I have to do it all the time.” And work existed before the fall so work is not the result of the fall. We will work in heaven by the way, but now work is hard and that is because of the fall. It feels like it is never done. When your work feels like it is never done, that is the result of the fall. That is what we see right here. And this is the monotonous irony. You work the ground to eat from the ground, only to fertilize the ground – to dust you will return.

Verse 20 – **“²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. ²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”** The first death. God did not abandon them; He made a sacrifice for them. He allowed them to have children and He has a glorious plan to fix all of this. Let me read it to you know in the New

Testament, the new covenant, Romans 5 ¹⁷ **For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!** ¹⁸ **Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.** ¹⁹ **For 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."**

That leads me to the cure for sin.

3. The Cure for Sin is Jesus.

Jesus is our only hope. Jesus is the cure for sin. Here is my trivia question for you: where does Jesus show up in the Scripture first? Where is He first there? It is Genesis 3:15, it is known as the proto evangelium. That translates directly as the first gospel. Sin shows up in the Scripture and the gospel shows up right beside it. Where there is sin, there is Jesus. Where there is sin, there is God's solution. So, this is what it says, let me read it to you: ¹⁵ **And I will put enmity, between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; Jesus, the one from Mary, he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."** Jesus on the cross, you will bruise Him. He will be bleeding. You will think you got the upper hand, but He will destroy you forever Satan. He is the plan. You have done this and so you will get to rule in the dirt and the darkness of this world, but I have a plan. The proto evangelium, the first gospel, when sin shows up Jesus shows up. Jesus is the cure for our sin. "...**through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.**" That is God's plan.

How is Jesus the cure? God's anger – this is so important – God's anger at your sin was satisfied on Him. God took all of His anger and all of His frustration at your sin and put it on Himself. So, He is free to just and only love you. And to pursue you and be crazy about you. I know that is mind blowing. We do not have another relationship in all of our land to fully understand what is happening there, but God loves you. He hates your sin, so He paid for your sin through Jesus, so He is just free to love you. That is good news! That is amazing! If we understood that we would just celebrate that every single day; if we fully understood what God did for us. And He gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us.

This is what 1 Corinthians 15:45 says, **"The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.**" That He is still alive and so there is never a situation where you have to sin. You are never in a choice where Option A is sin and Option B is sin. You will always have a way out. You will never have to sin for the rest of your life. 1 Corinthians 10:13 – ¹³ **No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.**" God will always give you an Option C. He will always show you something that you can do that will glorify Him. It may be hard! It may be really, really difficult and the entire world may be saying that is crazy. But you say, "No I am going to honor God. I am going to do what God wants me to do. He will sort it out in eternity."

So, the one that you have been running from can save you.

This message is sponsored by swimming pools evidently, let me tell you one more pool story. I was there at the pool when I was younger and there was this little boy – two or three years old. And this boy was just a problem for the lifeguard. He kept running and she would blow the whistle telling him not to run. Then he would turn and laugh at her, sticking out his tongue. And I remember that he would go up to her and stand and try to distract her. He was there with a babysitter, and she would tell the babysitter, “Hey, you have got to get him. I am trying to watch the pool.” And he was calling her names and being a really unruly child. So, the babysitter decides it is time to go. And as she plans to leave, she pulls off his floaties and turns to put them into her bag with the towels. And when she turned around, he had jumped in the pool and sunk to the bottom. He could not swim at all. And that lifeguard, without hesitation... She did not say, “Well that is what you get. Laugh at me now.” No. The lifeguard, without hesitation, jumped into that water and grabbed the kid off the bottom of the pool, lifted him up, and put him on the side. She returned him back to his caretaker. This is us and God. The very one we have mocked in our choices, the very one we have turned from, is the one who has provided the solution for the things we have done wrong against Him. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. This is the good news! This is the gospel. This is the cure for your sin. Sin shows up and so does the gospel; so, does Jesus. Side by side.

In summary - the consideration of sin is temptation, the consequence of sin is death, the cure for sin is Jesus. You may be able to resist a marshmallow. You may be able to think, “Oh that is cute, that is not my thing.” But there is something that you are okay with that you should not be. And the way that a child, with very little resilience to resist temptation, is able to hold out is to know the promise of something better. If I do not eat, I get two. Your something better than a child, than marriage, than intimacy, than anything that you think that you deserve – your something better is so much better forever! Let me just end by reading that to you.

First in James 1 he says this, **“¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”** The promise of resisting temptation is a crown that does not fade and does not tarnish. It does not go away. I know that there was a tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden that was a test, but there is another tree. Let me read it to you.

Revelation 21, we started with the first book, and we will end with the last. **“Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”** Revelation 22 – **“Then the angel showed me the**

river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.”

Friends, in this life you will face temptation. Hold out, stay strong, resist the devil. There is something infinitely better for you that awaits. You will not get there and feel like you missed out on anything – that is faith. That is faith. You will not get there and feel like you missed out on anything. You will be in the presence of God forever and ever and ever. Do not lose sight of that.

Let me pray. Father we thank you for your word that does not return void. God there is a temptation that we are susceptible to right now.

Would you think about what it is for you right now? I am going to give each of you a minute to think about where the enemy is messing with you right now. Where he is telling you that you are completely entrenched in it. Maybe it is a hardened heart towards God. Maybe it is a feeling. Maybe it is an addiction. Maybe it is just an Amazon addiction, I do not know what it is for you. What is it for you? Say it to God right now. Do not be distracted. This is your turn. Say it to God right now, you do not have to say it out loud, but in your mind, you tell God right now. Give that to Him. You see the cross? You see what it cost?

Father we thank you for your son, Jesus Christ, our bridegroom who is coming back on the clouds to take us home. To carry us home to you. We thank you for Him. We love you Father. Amen.