

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God 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 surely will not die!"

⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be 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 from its fruit and ate; and she gave also 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 loin coverings.

⁸ 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 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from 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 from the tree, and I ate."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

1. We have seen God create everything
2. We read where He created man & woman
3. He put Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden – a perfect environment
4. He told them that they could do anything & everything they wanted to do & it was OK except for one thing – "Don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good & evil!"
5. For a short period of time they lived in the freedom they were given

6. It is called the dispensation of innocence
 - a. The word dispensation – οἰκονομία – means household management
7. Three individuals spent time in that garden – God, Adam & Eve
8. Then one day a fourth person showed up – Satan!
 - a. We saw that Satan is a different type of created being than man – he is an angel

Ezekiel 28:14 "You^(Satan) were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

- b. We studied angels last time & how different they are from man
 - i.
 9. Satan was mad b/c the garden of Eden belonged to him at one time
- Ezekiel 28:13** "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared.

10. Satan wants man to fall out of favor w/ God so he tempts Eve to sin by misquoting Scripture – but she doesn't fall for it
- Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God 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.'"

11. Apparently Eve was not surprised that the serpent could talk to her
12. Next he tempts her by telling her a lie **V.3**

V.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.'"

V.4 The serpent said to the woman, "*You surely will not die!*

1. ""You surely will not die"

a. Satan is a liar

i. The first lie he makes in the form of a question

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

b. The 2nd lie is a supposedly statement of fact (although it's a lie)

V.4 "You surely will not die"

c. Satan is by nature a liar – i.e. that is all he can do

John 8:44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is **no** truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, **he speaks from his own nature**, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

d.

V.5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it *your eyes will be opened*, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

1. "the day you eat...your eyes will be opened...you will be like God, knowing good and evil"

i. "you...will know good and evil" – is a true statement

b. The world is too imprudent to realize that just b/c a statement has some truth – that doesn't make it the truth

c. Lies are only palatable when they have an element of truth or so farfetched that there is no reality to compare them to

d. Christians in particular are susceptible to lies b/c they want to focus on the positive

i. Example: "My children go to church; it may not be much of a church but at least they are going to church."

ii. They are saying, "That church doesn't stand for much but at least they are going to church." They focus on the word "Church" & that is a word associated w/ truth – so it's OK!

iii. A good liar knows that he can tell 3 lies & one truth & people will believe the whole thing b/c thus & thus was true

- iv. As a believer – we are to be more mature than that
- v. God equipped certain individuals to the Church to help protect it from lies

Ephesians 4:11(NLT2) Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ **Then** we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

- e. The closer we get to the end of time the worse the lying has become

1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

² by means of the hypocrisy of **liars** seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

² Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

³ and in *their* greed they will exploit you with **false words**; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

V.5 x "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

1. "your eyes will be opened"
 - a. Satan used a particular lie – he said, "there is a level of living that God is keeping you from experiencing"
 - b. When someone is tempted to try: adultery, drugs, pornography, theft, etc. – Satan says to the one tempted, "There is a level of satisfaction you can't experience, as long as you listen to God."
 - i. There is an element of truth in what he says – the thrill of stolen fruit
 - ii. But it always ends in death!

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

V.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 from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

1. "When the woman saw...the tree"
 - a. Satan accomplished his goal
 - b. The woman took her eyes off "what God said" & began looking at the tree – she was doomed by her own desires
 - c. At that point Satan could back up & watch the demise of the human race – no longer looking to God for answers – the outcome is inevitable

2. "the woman saw that the tree was good for food...a delight to the eyes...desirable to make one wise...she...ate"
 - a. Not looking to God for answers – not having instinct to guide her – she did what she felt like doing
 - b. Man still falls the same way today

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

¹⁴ But each one **is** tempted when he is carried away and enticed **by his own lust.**

¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

- c. If Eve had simply decided to wait until she could talk to God before she made a decision

- d. The tree wasn't going anywhere – the fruit wasn't going to rot – if she had prayed first before she took the fruit!!!
- e. Do you pray before you do things – even little things?
 - i. Do you pray before you: go shopping, go somewhere, make a big decision, make a small decision?
 - ii. You say well I would be praying all the time – ??
 - iii. Yeah, you would be doing just what Scripture says to do

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing;

- iv. You may think that some answers are so obvious that there is no need to pray – sometimes the most obvious answer is the wrong answer – sometimes common sense isn't the right answer either
- v. You can learn to pray so quickly that it becomes second nature to pray about everything before doing anything

V.6 x 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 from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

- 1. "the woman saw...was good for food"
 - a. Lust of the flesh
- 2. "delight to the eyes"
 - a. Lust of the eyes
- 3. "desirable to make one wise"
 - a. Pride of life
 - b. Satan has worked w/ this same scenario since Eve

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the ^{#1}lust of the flesh and the ^{#2}lust of the eyes and the boastful ^{#3}pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- c. There has only been one Person it didn't work on

Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness

² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread(^{#1} lust of the flesh)

⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL

NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE."

⁵ And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

⁶ And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory;^(#2 lust of the eye) for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

⁷ "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."

⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

⁹ And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here;^(#3 pride of life) **Like saying to Clark Kent – tell everyone your superman**

¹⁰ for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU,'

¹¹ and, 'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"

¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, "It is said, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"

¹³ When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

- i. How did Christ respond? He kept His focus on Scripture

V.6 x 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 from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

V.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 loin coverings.

1. "the eyes of both of them were opened"
 - a. Both of them had their eyes opened even though their sin was very different

- i. Eve sinned out of ignorance
 - ii. Adam sinned out of an act of his will
 - iii. The net results of sin is the same – death
 - iv. What is the difference between the man who trips & falls off a 10 story building and the man who jumps off a 10 story building? Nothing!
2. “they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings”
- a. This is a perfect picture of religion
 - b. Religion is man trying make himself acceptable to God in his own way
 - c. Religion is taking God’s Word & making it say what man wants it to say
 - d. Religion is creating rituals & ceremonies & giving them meaning w/out Scriptural authority
 - e. Religion makes man feel better about his nakedness – but doesn't deal w/ the sin that separates man from God
 - i. Man deciding how God should accept him is what the Israel did –
 - ii. They rejected the Messiah b/c they liked their system better

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

³ For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

- f. Religion can't deal w/ sin – b/c man can't deal w/ his own sin – but Christ did deal w/our sins
- g. The answer is found in God’s plan – not man’s plan

Romans 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through

one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

3. Put your trust in what God has done through His Son – not in what you can do for God!
4. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ & be saved!