

THE GARDEN, US AND JESUS: SIN

So, last week we discussed temptation. We considered how, and just as importantly, why he does so. Remember, He's trying to plant seeds of doubt towards God. He wants you to believe something better is always around the corner - that God is holding you back. It's powerful.

This week we're going to consider the consequences of giving into temptation.

6-13 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. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. 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. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 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."

- *"Eat and become a god, the World Hater had said. So they ate. Rejecting God and worshiping their own wishes. But, gods or not, when they heard the rustle of God's footsteps (3:8) in the garden they hid themselves out of fear. Now they're 'gods' and now they know fear (3:10). Man makes a good creature but he makes a poor god! Take a look at his historical record!" . . . "And the little gods tried to cover their shame (3:7). And the little gods blamed others for their fall. The woman blamed the Serpent, and man blamed the woman and the God who gave him the woman (3:12-13). Where there had been joy at God's approach there now was fear, where there was loyalty toward God and one another there now was treachery and the placing of blame, where there was warm communion and fellowship there was now division, where there had been glory and honor there now was shame and disgrace."* from *Genesis and Us*

With sin came gross consequences. We need to level with one another. We know it resulted in spiritual and eventually physical death. But, to be honest, there is hope for such a person, isn't there? Let me remind you of **Romans 5:12-22**. Don't get me wrong - I'm always wanting to build up and remind us of the light that is always around the corner. However, we need to level with one another - forgetting the result of sin or taking for granted Jesus' grace is a very dangerous road.

Having said that, we also need to remember that Jesus did not only come to set us free in the future, but now. Yes, even as we live in a wicked world - we can find peace in Him. We can find goodness now. We can shine as lights right now. We can hurt or heal - now.

A while back we considered **1 John 3:5-8**. Remember how we consider **John 12:27-32**. Remember **John 10:10**.

I was looking at some of the variations of the terms *sin*, *transgression* and *iniquity* this week. It was interesting and there are subtle differences, but I'll tell ya - at the end of it, it all breaks down to the same thing. It's about us going our own way, which ends up being crooked and breaking covenant with God and man. It ends up being immoral.

This brings me back to what the text points out and what one brother so skillfully pointed out. It's not only about what's to come, but what happens right now.

Look at what sin does:

- To nature.
 - **Romans 8:18-22** When God cursed the ground because of Adam in **Genesis 3:17**?
- You know what sin can do to you?
 - Adam & Eve were naked and not ashamed and without fear or knowledge of evil. Having no need to hide from God, but walk freely (2:25; 3:5). Afterwards, they felt exposed, afraid, and, for the first time, felt the need to hide from God. They knew evil in a way that not even God did (3:7,8,10).
 - **Psalms 32:1-4** You can run, but you can't hide from its affect.
 - **2 Samuel 12:1-6** It's what we do to others.
 - The bible is filled with account after account of sin and its consequences. It's kind of a main theme, is it not?

Look at what it was like for God.

- There's a couple of ways to look at this. You can think, "What a mess for mankind!" Or you can think, "How much hurt that caused the Father." Both are true. However, it's good to turn our attention to God. We know how much His attention is on His creation (which is why we love Him so deeply).
- **Psalms 51:3-4** David got it right. Ultimately, more than anyone, he sinned against God. He broke covenant with Him. He went down a crooked path.
- You want to see the difference between God and man? You want to see what it looked like for Him?
- Here's a picture for you - the difference between God and Us:
- **Luke 1:26-33** This a wonderful picture of the nature of God.
- **John 19:23-27** This is an accurate picture of man.
- **Psalms 22:22-24** Who else had to watch? Our God of light watched the light of the world

Yet, how beautiful God is to us sinners. Is He not?

- **Isaiah 52:13-53:6, 10-12.**

How should I live respond to such grace?

- **Romans 6:1-4.**