

Paradise Lost

Gen 3

This is technically week 3 of our series, where we are working our way through the bible, I hope that this week, you have been staying on top of your bible reading plan, if not, it's **not too late to start!** We just started, and right now we are only reading about a few verses a day. Very low reps for now, to train your bible comprehension muscles to get into a routine, I'm telling you, a few verses a day is all it takes to begin to get tone and sharp to run your spiritual marathon. It would be ashamed if we play bible trivia with other churches and we are biblically out of shape! So, let's encourage each other this week to not be fat and lazy.

Today I have titled my message "**Paradise Lost**" because it doesn't matter who you are, if you are breathing, you know that something is wrong with the world. In fact, if you're not breathing, you would also know something is wrong with the world.

A lot of people would blame a lot of things like, poverty, education system, government, religion, your parents for the social problems in the world. But have you ever thought that **YOU** were part of the problem? **Something is wrong with YOU.**

As people, we like to point fingers and blame others for wrong decisions, but when it's our fault, we call those decisions a "**mistake.**" Or "**an accident**"

- I made a mistakes with my GF
- I made a mistake saying this to a friend
- I made some mistake with someone that is not my GF
- It's not my fault, it was "an accident"
- Or on celebrity news, when their affair was expose, they say, it was a "mistake".

Now, A **mistake is what happens when you forget to carry the 1** in a math problem. **An accident is when you spill your milk.** But if you cheated, or stealing something, or wrong someone, I'm not sure "**Mistake**" and "**Accident**" is the right word. **Because sometimes we make mistakes on purpose.** Don't we? Don't you? **Sometimes we plan our Accidences.** What do you call a **Accident** that you make on purpose? What is the best term to describe a person who plans and carries out the same mistakes over and over, and then lies about it to everyone? **A serial mistaker?"**

And this is where the bible suggest that something went wrong in the history of mankind. Something was **lost**, and it makes us all feel a little out of place, out of purpose, out of paradise. Since Genesis 3, humanity have been born lost, and are disparity wanting to be found.

Now we learned last week that God made the world and he called it "**good**" (personally I think it looks like Wauconda), then he made Adam in his image. And calls him to also **create** and to continue to make things "**good**" by naming the animals. That's when Adam realized that all the animals had a pair, they all had a valentine. The giraffe had a bae, the money had a boo, the Rooster had a chick. But Adam was alone, so God said that this was "**not good**" and he caused Adam to go night night and took his ribs, with a little sugar, spice, and barbecues sauce, God made a completely different wild species and brought her to him. *(Now this is the fall of man...)*

He also gave Adam instructions in the garden. God said in Gen 2:16-17 "**You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 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.**" This is significant because in this garden there was freedom, but **within freedom there where boundaries.** Our society have a different definition for **freedom.** **Freedom** doesn't mean you get to do anything you want, but **when you obey God-given boundaries, you are most free.** Tell me why our "Sexual freedom" that say you can have sex with whoever, whenever, however we want, has put so many of us in "sexual bondage". Because somewhere we have crossed the **God-given boundaries and are now lost.**

And today, I want to bring your attention to Genesis 3, the fall of humanity, where it all went wrong, our perfect paradise **lost**.

In chapter 3 we are introduced to a new character, the deceiver, the liar, **the serpent**. **A little back ground:** This snake is actually the **devil in disguise**. His name was “Lucifer”, means “Morning Star”. He was an angel that was made to serve God, but because of his pride, he wanted to be God himself. There was a rebellion in heaven so **God casted him out**. We can find that story in Revelation 12:7-9 When he was described as the Dragan, “⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” This is the back story of Genesis 3, because from this point on, the devil has been obsessed with recruiting a rebellion against everything that God has made, including humanity.

Look with me at chapter 3 verse 1 to see how the devil deceives.

In this message, I will reveal to you 3 biggest deception of the devil. And this will not just help us resist his temptations but overcome his lies.

1. **You Can't Trust God's Words**

“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?’”

- First of all, Satan is rude, he didn't say hi. Who jumps into a question? That should have been the first red flag.
- Second, did it not bother Eve that a snake was talking to her?? Where was her husband? Was he ok with this?

Anyways, we find that Satan doesn't play around. He gets right to the point. “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” Why would Satan want to challenge Eve of what God said? His strategy was to cast doubt in Eve's mind about the **word of God**. Because Satan knows **once you doubt the Word of God, you will question the Character of God**. **The root of all sin is unbelief** in the word and Character of God.

- Some of us are in ungodly or unhealthy relationships, not because we are lonely (that's the surface level) the root is that **we don't believe God is the source of all comfort**.
- Some of us can't forgive others, because we don't believe that **vengeance belongs to God and trust that he will take care of it**.
- Some of us are stuck in religion thinking that our good works will make us right with God, **because we don't believe that Jesus's work on the cross was sufficient**.
- Sin doesn't just happen; it happens because somewhere in your heart and mind **we have concluded that God cannot be trusted**. Most, nearly all of our temptations start with, “Did God really say?”

And clearly Eve didn't remember... lets read verse 2;

“The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 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.’”

Did you catch what was interesting about her response, Eve quoted something that God never said. **He never told her that she couldn't touch it!** So, as Satan was interrogating her and accusing God, she was unclear of the **word of God** herself.

- And that's what Satan does to us when we are unclear with the **word of God**. **How in the world can you expose the lies of the Devil, when you don't know the Truth?** Don't depend on people to do it for you, me included.
- Satan didn't even have to convince her that **God was too strict**, because she was already believing a lie about what **God said**.
 - Let me tell you, that's what **religion** does, **religion makes us follow a list of burdensome boundaries that God never said**, and **instead of freedom, religion puts so many of us in bondage**.

- This is the difference between how Eve responded to Satan in the garden, and how Jesus responded to Satan in the wilderness.
- In Matthew 3 right after Jesus was baptized and God said, **"This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."** Chapter 4, Jesus was in the wilderness and the devil said to him, **"If you are the son of God, tell these stones to become bread."** In other words, **"Did God really say, you are his son?"** Can you see that the devil will make you question the **word of God?**

While it said that, Eve saw that the tree was good for food, Jesus rebuke Satan saying, **"man does not live on food alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."** (Mat.4:4)

God's words CAN be trusted! Do you trust in his words? God wants to raise a generation that stands up against a rebellious world, on his words and his words alone.

2. You Can't Believe God's Goodness

⁴ **"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ^s"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

First of all the devils a liar, he is promising her something that God already gave her.

- She is already made in the image of God, and reflects him
- God already told her what's "good" and what's "not good".

But the deception here is that she is being convince that **God doesn't know what's bad or good for her?** Satan has reversed the roles, to make **God sound like the liar**, and we can't believe him.

- **Eve** should define what's "good" and "bad" by herself.
- **Eve**, should do whatever she wants, because that's freedom
- **Eve** doesn't need to listen to anyone, She can become her own God.

Like Eve, we are in a world that believes the same lie! God must be withholding something good from us. We **can't** trust him, therefore we should **disobey**.

- He's **not** going to punish us, we can lie, and steal, and be envious, and hateful, and be sexually immoral, **freely eating from the forbidden tree and nothing bad will happen.** He won't judge us.
- Don't be deceived:
 - God said, **for when you eat from it you will certainly die."**
 - Satan says, **"it's not true, God isn't good, you're actually missing out on something if you don't do it"**
 - Isn't that the lie we have been hearing all through highschool? If you don't smoke, or drink, or have sex, do this do that, you are missing out on something "good".
- **The area that you are sinning, is the area that you don't believe that God is good.**
- **All of God's promises is found in Jesus Christ.**
 - When he said, **"Whoever believes in me will have eternal life"** how does that change your walk?
 - When he says, **"I can do more than what you ask for"** how does that change the way we pray?
 - When he commands us to, **"cast all our cares on him"** how should that change the way we carry our burdens?
 - Can you believe that **God has your best interest in mind, and he is working all things together for your "Good"!**

In the wilderness, the Devil brought Jesus to the top of the temple, and told Jesus to throw himself down, to see if God would send angels to catch him, **to test if God is really "good" or not.** Jesus replied, **"it is written: do not put the Lord your God to the test"** **I KNOW MY GOD IS GOOD!** I know he has my back, I know his promises are **yes** and **amen!**

- Do you believe that He is "good"?

3. You Can't Obey God's Authority

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." 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. What was he doing there? Who knows?

What a tempting promise, that I get to rule the world like a god. And that's what **sin** does!

- Our sinful nature doesn't want to **submit** under God, because it wants to **rule** as God.
- Our sinful nature doesn't find joy in **servicing** God, because it wants God to **serve** us.
- Our sinful nature doesn't **love to obey** God, because wants to **rebel** in every perverted way. Satan was offering Eve the same authority he desired when he was in heaven. And she bought in to it.

And because of that, humanity have all been born **lost**, we also have that same desire in us, especially our generation, have been obsessed with **being God** in a lot of areas;

- We want to have **absolute control** of everything, but only God has that
- That's the appeal of always **being busy**, be able to do a million things at the same time, only God does that.
- People looking into horoscopes and fortunetelling, **to know the future.** But only God can do that.
- Even social media makes us feel like **we have the access into the lives of people, without asking their permission, like God.**
- We desperately try to **poses all the infinity stones and holds its powers,** but only God has the authority to do so.

Authority in God's hands **Creates**, in our hands **Corrupts**

Again, The Devil tempted Jesus with this same desire. Satan said, "If you bow down and worship me, I will give you all the kingdom of the world" All **authority** on earth will be yours. Jesus replied, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'"

Again, Jesus was able to overcome sin where humanity have utterly failed.

Where we **rebelled**, Jesus **obeyed**, where we **subdue**, Jesus **submit**.

Look with me to Genesis 3:7-10 the moment where man has fallen, and paradise was lost.

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. 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, 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."

Because of sin, now they are able to see something that they were never meant to see, and that was **shame and guilt.** Which caused them to cover themselves in **fig leaves** and **hide** from God and each other. **And isn't that what we are still doing? hiding from God and from each other, covering up our sins and shame.**

Sin causes us to dress ourselves in things that will **wither away.**

Fig leaves where the first religion.

- We think I'll be **good**, if I go to church, put money in the offering, volunteer, even pray.
- **Ex:** This is like a man who buys his wife flowers, in an attempt to make up for an affair.

During Jesus' ministry he look upon the **religious pharisees** and turned to the side and cursed a **fig tree** and that tree withered and died. (Mark 11:12)

- Showing us that **our religiousness is not able to cover up our sinfulness.** Because beneath all that religiousness, clothes, conciliar, and leaves, Like Adam and Eve, **you are still afraid and hiding among the trees.**

- And in this moment, God didn't run through the garden, as if he's in a **hurry.**
- He didn't **stomp** through the garden as if to **scare** them.
- It says, "he was walking in the cool of the day" his usual visits.

- **The turning point of the whole Bible is recorded in verse 9, when man was lost, God immediately came looking.**
- **“but the Lord God called to the man “Adam, Where are you?”**

He called out to them with his **calm** voice “where are you?” because **the creator God, is still inviting his children back into his presence. He is still interested in bringing his lost children home.**

But we have gotten to the point where we are convinced that;

- we can't trust God's words
- we can't believe his goodness
- we can't obey his authority

Sin has given us a distorted view of God, and makes us think that we can deceive him, we can hide behind a **tree** and no one will know what we have done. You can hide a lot of things from you family and friends, from you Instagram followers, from your pastors and teachers, but **you can't hide anything from God, no matter what brand of concealer you got or what privet settings you're on.**

Like lost children, they hid behind a tree as if it will cover me from the wrath of God, because they remembered God said, “the punishment for their sins was death” Maybe if God **can't see them**, he **won't judge them.**

We do it to. We think if we are a **good person** maybe God will not **judge me**. If I just **fix myself** I'll be ok. What kind of tree are you hiding behind?

The Good News was given, when Adam heard God's calming voice in the garden and he answered, **“here I am, I heard you in the garden, and I have to confess that I was afraid, because of my nakedness, so I hid, I'm so sorry.”**

Even though humanity has fallen, even though sin has entered the world, even though they were now lost. God made an **unbinding promise with humanity**, in cursing the serpent, in verse 15, **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”**

- **This is the first prophesy, that a SAVIOR will come from Eve, and HE will crush the head of the serpent, as the serpent will strike him.**
- God points to another cosmic battle that will take place, but this time not in heaven but on earth.
- This is the **first promise of CHRIST**. From this point on, every story in the bible will flow out of this promise. And every message will echo the name of the savior.
- **In 1Cor. 15:21** tells us that God will send a new Adam, a better Adam. It says, **“For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”**
- **Jesus is our new and better Adam!**
 - While Adam and Eve hid behind a tree from the wrath of God, Jesus was hung on a tree to take that wrath.
 - While Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the forbidden tree and dead, Jesus obeyed God and climbed up on that cursed tree, so that WE COULD BE SET FREE!
- This plan of **salvation** may be illustrated in **the end of Genesis 3:21**, **“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”**
 - **Don't miss this**, God takes an animal and kills it and uses the skin to cover their nakedness.
 - **This points toward the death of Jesus, “the Lamb of God,” where his blood clothed our sin and shame in righteousness...**

The last verse of Genesis 3 reveals something very important for us. ²⁴ *The Lord God drove him out and then placed angels on the east side of the garden. He also placed there a flaming sword that flashed back and forth. The angels and the sword guarded the way to the tree of life.*

- Remember that Moses wrote Genesis, to show Israel that the 2 angels that sits above the Ark of the Covenant is guarding the presence of God, the holy of holy's, the **Tree of Life**.
- And when Jesus resurrected from the tomb, John records an interesting detail for us, "*11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,*"

In his death and burial, Jesus took the flaming swords of justice that guards the entrance to the presence of God! And his blood was the ultimate atonement for our sins. And in his resurrection, he is the living tree of life! While Marry thought that his body was **lost**, he was alive, and **he found her**.

Gen 3 is YOUR STORY.

- Have you **realized that God is looking** for you—just like he was with Adam and Eve?
- Have you **sensed that** in your heart? His **Spirit chasing** you; his **voice calling** to you...
- **God sent his son Jesus on a rescue mission for YOU.**
- **While our heart cries out**
 - I **can't** trust God's words
 - I **can't** believe his goodness
 - I **can't** obey his authority
- Jesus, our **tree of life** carried that "**T**" in "**can't**" to Calvary hill and died for it. So that now we "**can**" through Jesus:
 - I **can** trust God's words
 - I **can** believe his goodness
 - I **can** obey his authority
- Only through Jesus, we **can** receive life again with God.
- *Some of you have learned a lot about Jesus, but you've never known him personally as your Lord & Savior.*
- He didn't die to make bad people good, **but lost people found**,
- He didn't die to make sad people happy **but DEAD PEOPLE LIVE.**
- **I want to give you that opportunity...**

Concluding...

- *(Points us to a new Eden!)*