

The Journey Back to the Father

Part 1 - Fellowship Broken

From the very beginning of creation God's desire was to have a face-to-face relationship with His people. Through this relationship man would grow into a mature being in a likeness that was the same as His. This relationship as any other good relationship had to be based on trust as well as many other virtues. If they would trust God, their relationship with Him would continue to grow and mature. If not, this relationship would take a horrible setback that would bring much sorrow and shame.

The following scriptures show that this setback did take place, the affects it had and the reasons for this tragic event. We will also see a glimpse of the path that needs to be taken to have this relationship restored and bring us back into a meaningful relationship with the Father.



Gen 3:1-24 Adam and Eve

The sowing of seeds of mistrust

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

- **serpent** (*a snake to hiss, i.e., whisper a (magic) spell; to prognosticate*)
- **crafty** (*cunning (usually in a bad sense)*)

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."

- The Serpent first puts doubt in Eve's mind about what God had told her and then assigns God with an evil motive, that being that God was keeping something from her that was good and desirable, (even though God had shown his goodness to her) thus making God the evil one and not the Serpent.
- Because of this she was willing to listen to the Serpent that was then able to feed her with lies that would breed mistrust and discontent.

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.

- The results of believing a lie.
- Just because something looks or taste good does not mean that it is healthy for us even as certain kinds of information will tear down and not build up.
- In this case it destroyed a good relationship as it will destroy all good relationships.

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.

- The beginning of man trying to solve his own problems

8 They heard the sound of Yahweh God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife **hid** themselves from the **presence** of Yahweh God among the trees of the garden.

- **hid** (*refers to people hiding in fear of death*)
- **presence** (*the face (as the part that turns)*)
- Adam and Eve had turned their face away from their Father

9 Then Yahweh God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

- The real question that needs to be answered is not where we are in location to God but where we are in relationship to God.

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

- **afraid** (*to fear; morally*)
- Even though Adam and Eve clothed themselves with fig leaves Adam knew that they were still naked.
- The works of their own hands is not what will restore their fellowship with the Father.

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?"

- There is a world of difference in being naked before a person in a proper and loving relationship and a relationship that is filled with dishonor and mistrust.
- Trust is built over time but can be torn down in just a moment of time.

12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." 13 Then Yahweh God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent **deceived** me and I ate.

- **deceived** (*a primitive root; to lead astray, i.e. (mentally) to delude, or (morally) to seduce*)

14 Yahweh God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, **Cursed** are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;

- **Cursed** (*to put under a curse, to declare to be evil or detestable, to destroy utterly*)

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

- Prophecy of Christ
- The work of Jesus Christ is the avenue to the Father.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that he might bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ESV

The consequences of disobedience

16 **To the woman He said**, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." 17 **Then to Adam He said**, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I **commanded you**, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; **Cursed is the ground because of you**; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 18 "Both **thorns** and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; **For you are dust**, And to dust you shall return."

- In a good and healthy relationship there are no negative consequences

20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. 21 Yahweh God made **garments of skin** for Adam and his wife, and **clothed them**.

- God clothing Adam and Eve with coats of skin shows the severity of sin and that it is not to be taken lightly. Sin causes death and without the shedding of blood it cannot be covered

Hebrews 9:11-22 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the

flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. 16 For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. 17 For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.** ESV

22 Then Yahweh God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"

- No longer would man's relationship with God be based on the trust that God had man's best interest and well-being at heart but also on the knowledge man had gained from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- This knowledge was not a heavenly knowledge but an earthly and evil knowledge that would war against the goodness and very charter of God.
- This knowledge would be saturated with inaccurate statements, half-truths and outright lies.
- This was not a knowledge that would build a good relationship with the Father or anyone else. This is not a state that God desires us to live in continually.

23 therefore Yahweh God sent him out from the Garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He **drove** the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to **guard the way to the tree of life.**

- **drove** (*a primitive root; to drive out from a possession; especially to expatriate or divorce*)

Every day of our lives we are faced with choices that will change how we live our lives. The question that we must ask ourselves do these choices draw us closer to our heavenly Father or drive us further away from His presence. As we continue to look at the Word of God concerning this subject, I pray that we will learn from those that have gone before us and not chose those choices that separate us from Him but learn and apply those choices that will expand our relationship with our Heavenly Father our God.

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