

The Promised Wound

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." (Gen. 3:15)

PRAYER

Genesis 3 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible.

It tells us how we got here.

It tells us who we are as men and women.

It tells us the source of our nature and cause behind humanity's brokenness.

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'?" ²The 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. (Gen. 3:1-7)

The first 2 chapters of Genesis tell us the story and stages of God's creation and God's creative power.

And, although Genesis 1 recounts exactly what is created on the different days there is little specificity.

... We read of God creating fish and birds on the fifth day but there is no mention specifically of trout, salmon, eagles or cardinals ...

... On the fifth day God creates beasts, cattle, and living creatures, but that's as specific as it gets.

We do see in chapter 2 that Adam named all of the animals ...

But then here in Genesis 3 the serpent steps onto the stage of human history ...

... abruptly and without introduction.

We are told that the serpent was more crafty than all the other beasts.

... and we see in Genesis 3:1 that this serpent begins to have a conversation with Eve.

There are some things in Genesis that really make me scratch my head ... and this conversation between Eve and the Serpent is one of them.

First of all Eve doesn't appear to be shocked by the serpent talking.

- Does this mean that before the “fall” all animals could talk and Adam and Even could have conversations with them?
 - We are told in Genesis 2:18-21 that these animals were considered and declared unsuitable as a companion for Adam.
- ... and maybe there was something more to the abilities of humans and animals before the fall ...
- ... but we are told that
- And it would be a waste of your time and mine if we filled these few minutes together with conjecture and assumptions
- I refuse to cloud the clear revelation of Scripture with my opinion or try to build a theology on baseless speculation.

... But Eve is having a conversation with this serpent.

... and although this really is a snake talking, we know from Paul's writing in 2 Cor. 11:3 as well as John's in Rev. 12:9 and 20:2 that this serpent was being used by Satan.

... in all actuality, the conversation recorded here in Genesis 3 is between Eve and Satan.

... And so, I want to take a few moments to talk about this, BECAUSE out of this conversation comes a very important truth that we need to be aware of.

1. Satan's Influence is Progressive

So, Satan begins this conversation,

Satan's influence in your life and mine seems to always begins with DIALOGUE

And that dialogue can be **someone talking to you**, questions that **come to you from the culture** ... or even **internal questions**.

... and you will notice that Satan approaches Eve, not as an atheist, but as one who believes.

James 2:19 tells us that the demons believe and tremble.

... and here Satan begins with a question.

"Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden '?"

Can't you hear Satan's insinuation?

He is trying to create DOUBT ... that is the purpose of Satan's dialogue.

If the devil can get you to **put a question mark** after the Word of God, then he has begun his work of trying to shipwrecking your faith.

"Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden '?"

... and I've seen it

... this is how this question mark grows in your mind.

First there is doubt about the **authorship**, then the **accuracy**, then the **authority**, and finally the **sufficiency** of the Bible.

Satan is intentionally working on you, to draw you by small degrees toward your own destruction.

... and he does that by convincing you to question the Word of God.

Please hear my warning: Don't you let any person (friend or foe, scholar or otherwise) convince you to put a question mark after the Word of God.

The devil wants to make you doubt ... that is why he starts the conversation.

... **and let me add**, if the Devil has already done this to you ... if he has already planted doubts in your mind and heart ...

I want to ask you to honestly bring your doubts to Jesus,

... confess them, and just pray, *"Lord I believe, help my unbelief"* ...

... and I can guarantee you that He will come to your aid ... comfort you and strengthen your trust.

God is an expert at healing the broken heart and bringing calm to the troubled soul.

So, Satan has started the dialogue, created doubt ... and then ...

²The 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.'"

Notice the phrase "touch it" that's not what God said.

"From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (Gen. 2:16-17)

What is happening here is that Eve has added to the Word of God

... and she did this because her faith had become fragile ...

... she has begun to doubt...

Liberalism is the consequence of no faith, but **legalism** is the consequence of weak faith.

Eve infers upon the Word of God something God never said

... and when she does this it opens the door for the next step downward.

Dialogue, doubt and now **DENIAL**.

Satan hears Eve adding to the Word of God and recognizing the weakness of her faith, Satan jumps in and openly denies the truth.

“You will not die.”

Satan boldly and plainly denies that God will punish sin.

This, my friend, is the devil’s message, this his gospel ...

Satan wants to convince you that you can sin with impunity.

... and people believe it ... even in the church.

“God’s not going to punish sin ... He’s too good ... live any way you want ... God’s grace keeps us so how live really doesn’t matter ...”

... that is the devil’s big lie

... and this isn’t new

... Look at what James had to write almost 2000 years ago.

⁴ For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Jude 1:4)

Obedience to God's Word is not an option, it is a command.

I love what Adrian Rogers used to say, "*Law without penalty is only advice, and God wasn't giving advice.*"

Dialogue progresses to **doubt**, and doubt progresses to **denial** (you won't die) ...

... and now since Satan has gotten this far so he goes to the next obvious thing ... **DELUSION**

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." (Gen. 3:5)

As humans we are driven by our ego ... and Satan knows just how to play us.

- Eve eating this fruit will liberate you
- You will be your own God
- Call your own shots
- You can be the master of your own destiny
- You won't need God anymore.

Satan is trying to convince Eve to want what he wanted ... **to overthrow God.**

The prophet Isaiah records Satan saying these words.

¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' (Isa. 14:14)

Satan is trying to convince Eve to want what he wanted ... to overthrow God.

It is a sad day in the life of any individual when they **doubt** God, **deny** His Word and then buy into the **delusion** that they can live their life without God.

But that is what Eve did ...

... and with it came a **DESIRE** to disobey God and rebel.

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. (Gen. 3:6)

... Adam and Eve rebelled and sinned against God but there were consequences.

2. Sin's Power Separates

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. (Gen. 3:7-8)

Sin and rebellion against God separate us from God and verses 7 and 8 show us why.

- **Sin brings Shame** (*they knew they were naked*)
- **Shame brings more Shame** (*they sewed fig leave and made loin coverings.*)
- **Shame brings Separation** (*they hid themselves*)

Suddenly Adam and Eve are having feelings, sensations, and emotions they had never had before.

They knew they were naked ... that was something new.

They had been naked the whole time ... in fact this is what Genesis 2:25 says.

“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

... but now they knew they knew they were naked ... and they are ashamed of it.

... what changed?

The gospel of Mark says something very interesting about the Lord Jesus Christ when he was transfigured?

²And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. ³And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. (Mark 9:2-3)

I believe that before Adam and Eve sinned, they had a covering on themselves and that covering was God's glory

The Psalmist talks about the way God covers Himself.

O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with splendor and majesty, ² Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak, (Ps. 104:1-2)

God wears a robe of light and glory and when God appears in this world He appears as the "shekinah" glory

... the complete effulgence of light.

And so when God created perfect man, he crowned humanity with His glory.

Let me try to explain ... For lack of a better example:

Have you ever looked at a car and the sun was shining so bright on it that you couldn't really tell what color the car was until you moved the car into the shade?

... or ... Have you ever been outside and tried to read your iPad ... but the brightness of the sun on the screen was so brilliant you couldn't read or see the screen?

That may be how it was with Adam and Eve.

They were created in the image of God and the glory of God was so bright upon them that when they looked at each other ... they could see each other but did not see the nakedness ...

Adam and Eve were enveloped in God's glory wearing a robe of pure eternal light ...

... but when they sinned and fell short of the glory of God that glory departed and INSTANTLY, they knew they were naked.

They felt a sense of guilt ... **that was also new** ... they had never had that before.

Sin turns to shame and that brings guilt ... **and what you do with your guilt is everything!**

In Romans 1 we see that unconfessed guilt will eventually turn to arrogant sinfulness and that proud heart ultimately brings reprobation.

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. (Phil. 3:18-19)

It is not good to sin **but thank God for sinners** who can feel a sense of shame.

Adam and Eve were ashamed... and their response was to hide from the presence of the Lord.

- **Sin brings Shame** (*they knew they were naked*)
- **Shame brings more Shame** (*they sewed fig leave and made loin coverings.*)
- **Shame brings Separation** (*they hid themselves*)

Sin drove a wedge between unholy humanity and holy God.

You see God is meant to be loved, enjoyed and worshiped but sin prevents that from happening.

Later Isaiah (59:2) would say it this way to Israel ... *your iniquities have separated you and your God."*

3. God Does Not Abandon

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."¹⁴ The LORD 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; 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." (Gen. 3:9-15)

Please pay close attention to who is seeking whom ...

... it is not Adam seeking God, it is God seeking Adam.

You might think that Adam would have realized the horrible, terrible, awful thing that he had done and would have cried out, "*Oh God where are you? Lord, come and have mercy on me!*"

... but that is not what happened

... that is not how it is

The Apostle Paul is very clear in Romans 3 *we don't understand, and we don't seek God.*

You can clearly see this here in the story of Adam and Eve...

They sinned and then in shame they ran and hid from God.

Never forget, "We love HIM because HE first loved us!"

You say, well, no, no, no, no, it was my idea. I saw my need of God. I sought God out.

I want to ask you: Where out of your old sinful depraved unholy heart do you think there is going to come a desire to want to know a holy God?

NOWHERE!

The heart of humanity deceitful and desperately wicked

... and I just want to clear off a spot and thank God that although I was dead, helpless, and uninterested He came for ME!!!

... the Eternal and Holy God was moved in mercy by the pitiful plight of my sinful soul, and HE RESCUED ME!

" God commended his love toward us, in that, while we yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Tell me again my friend, what part did you play in that?

Listen: God would have been perfectly just to have flung Adam and Eve into hell and end humanity forever.

... but HE didn't. ... HE didn't!

... **and furthermore**, God didn't wait till Adam and Eve to get it right before he came to rescue them.

In fact, if you look at the text you can see that Adam and Eve were still playing the blame game.

As the old revival preachers used to say, Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake, and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.

And here is what I love about this story so much ...

God didn't come with a **whip** looking to **chastise**.

God didn't come as a **judge** looking to **punish**.

God came as a **Father**, with **promise**, looking to **redeem**.

... And that promise comes in the form of a rebuke to Satan *the great enemy and accuser of the brethren*.

¹⁴ The LORD 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; 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."
(Gen. 3:14-15)

This the wonderful promise of a two-sided wound.

Notice the phrase Moses uses here ... the "**seed of a woman**" ...

... this expression is unique ... because women don't have seed ... only men.

God says there is coming a very special child a child without an earthly father ...

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shalt call his name Emanuel ... God with us."

How is that possible?

... listen to how the angel put it to Mary

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. (Lk. 1:35)

And this **child**, this **messiah**, this **promised one**, will be God incarnate in the flesh born of a virginn
....

... the old divines called Genesis 3:15 the **Proto-Evangelium**

... The first gospel ...

Not only is this the first prophecy in the Bible, it is the seed bed for every other prophecy!

... and notice what this promised child is going to do

.... He is going to stomp on Satan's head so hard it isn't just going to crush Satan's head, it is going to bruise the Savior's heel!

... in other words, the Savior will be wounded so that Satan can be defeated.

..... **God could have destroyed the devil in an instant**, but He didn't choose to do that ...

... instead, God chose to take the form of humanity (the one Satan tried to destroy) ...

... and in the form of humanity God chose to

- take upon himself our weaknesses,
- endure our temptations,
- suffer our limitations,
- bear our shame
- die in our place for our sins.
- **He who knew no sin was made to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21)**

This promised wound is the greatest promise of all ...

... and you might be thinking *“But Nathan, Satan hasn't been fully defeated. He is still causing trouble.”*

Yes, the devil is still causing havoc in the lives of people,

... but you need to know that Satan is a defeated foe.

He sails a sinking ship ... and rules over a doomed domain.

... And my brother and sister ... God is not slack concerning His promises and God will do what He has said He will do.

... and he will do it to the uttermost.

Paul says it this way ...

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (Rom. 16:20)

Isn't the bible wonderful?

It begins with God preaching a marvelous gospel message of a coming Messiah and our redemption

... and then it ends with that Messiah returning to bring the **final defeat of the enemy** and the **ultimate victory of the believer.**