

Sermon Guide

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Sermon Series: The Drama of Redemption

## **The Entrance of Sin**

**Genesis 3:1-24**

*Pastoral Note – A great place for discussion and conversation about this Biblical passage is personalizing the way that temptation works in our hearts and what it says about how we view God’s Word. There are many discussions to be had about this text since we all know what it is to face the consequences of sin in this life which include shame, guilt, fear and isolation. However, it is key to be clear in our minds and hearts about just how temptation gets us there. In this way, we will be more alert to it, and the serpent’s methods, the next time we hear its and his whispers.*

### **The Origin of the Battle**

It’s important to remember that temptation and sin didn’t come from an eternal battle between good and evil. There is no dualism between good and evil or God and Satan. The serpent (Satan) has never been God’s equal. Equally important is to recognize that the text is not answering the originations of evil; it is not explaining where evil “came from”. The text only narrates evil’s intrusion into God’s good world.

### **The Anatomy of Temptation**

Genesis 3:1-5 “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

#### Application

Make a personal connection to the way that temptation works in you just as it did in Adam and Eve and look for concrete examples of these things in your life. We always question the reasonableness and goodness of God’s Word. We are inclined to seek to manipulate God’s Word by adding to it, subtracting from it or changing its context to suit ourselves. We often end up denying God’s Word by concluding that it is “not applicable in my case” or “no one will notice”. Don’t take the easy route and consider only “big” sins like adultery or murder. The very idea that there are bigger sins hints that we have treated God’s Word like silly putty; that His Word is something malleable to be formed to our liking. We must remember

that the serpent's sales pitch and methods have never changed; he will always suggest that your obedience to God's commands won't end in your happiness.

### Application Questions

Romans 1:28-32 "And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them."

Has temptation taken you down these roads (gossip, envy, etc.)?

What sins have you rationalized as respectable (or white collar) and beyond God's judgment or concern? Consider carefully, do you live as though God's Word is subject to your judgment?

## **Temptation Brings a New Perspective on Disobedience**

Genesis 3:6 "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."

### Application Questions

How has temptation caused you to see what was, once, clearly disobedience in a whole new and more appealing light?

## **The Fallout From Sin**

Genesis 3:7-24 "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." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your

desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”And to Adam he said,“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”

What is important to remember is that in the Gospel we receive forgiveness, pardon, cleansing, reconciliation and adoption. Which is all wonderful, however, we still live with the natural consequences of our sin in this life. The same held true for Adam and Eve.

Sermon Link: [The Entrance of Sin](#)

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