

First Southern Baptist Church - June 19, 2019
The Fall - Genesis 3:1-5

Introduction:

- I. The Serpent and the Woman - 3:1-5 - tonight
- II. The Sin - 3:6-8
- III. God Calls - 3:9-13
- IV. The Results - 3:14-21
- V. Man and Woman are Evicted - 3:22-24

I. The Serpent and the Woman - 3:1-5

1. Serpent

A. Introduced

- “Crafty” - can be a positive as well as a negative word - creates intrigue ambiguity
- he suddenly appears
- the lion seeks whom he may devour - lies quietly, then strikes

B. Snakes

- 1) Seen as a creature with magical powers - fertility cult (in pagan culture)
- 2) A symbol of life and death - wisdom
- 3) Recurring youth
- 4) Moses’ bronze serpent was both life and death - venom and shedding of skin
- 5) Are unclean animals -always on the ground

C. More than an apt symbol of Satan and his trickery - a “slithering snake”

D. Get behind me Satan - to Peter - the snake used in the same way

- used the body of a creature, that God had pronounced as “good” (1:31)

2. His tactic

A. Cause doubt - “did God say?”

- saying God’s motive was bad
- saying that they were naive

B. Note the rewording of God’s command

- 1) He does not outright disagree with God - but questions God’s motive
- 2) Uses the name “God” versus “LORD”
- 3) Reworks the command of God - adds “not” at the head of the clause
- omits the word “freely” (removing God’s liberality)

C. Her first mistake was to talk to the serpent - are religious debates wrong? - do they make believers?

D. She gazes at the tree, until then, she had not really looked at it

3. Now she changes the command

A. Omits the words “freely” and “surely”

B. She identifies the tree by its location and not its importance

C. She refers to God as “God” and not as LORD

D. She adds the phrase “must not touch it”

E. She fails to retain the urgency here - “surely” die

4. Satan's three counter claims
 - A. You will not die
 - B. Your eyes will be opened
 - C. They will gain what belongs to God - God is holding you back
-you're missing something
5. Told her what she would gain, never mentioned what she would lose
 - A. Their eyes were opened... their reward? To see only their nakedness
-now they are burdened with human guilt and embarrassment - shame
 - B. They did become like God - rewarded with isolation and fear
 - C. They found knowledge - but they found death
6. Three stages at which we are tempted: 1 John 2:16
 - A. Lust of the flesh - fruit would satisfy hunger
-Jesus' stones to bread
 - B. Lust of the eyes - a delight to the eyes (6)
-Jesus' jump from this pinnacle
 - C. Pride of life - to make one wise (6)
-Jesus' fall down and worship
7. The *appeals*:
 - A. Appeal to her appetite - good for food (appeal to **body**)
 - B. Appeal to her desire for pleasure - pleasant to the eyes (appeal to **emotions**)
 - C. Appeal to her ambition to succeed - to make one wise (appeal to intelligence - **pride**)
 *all good things
 *most temptations incorporate all of the above - not just one or two
8. The *lie/ lies*:
 - A. That God doesn't want the best for you
 - B. That God is keeping something from you
 - C. That you might not die
 - D. That you'll be happier another way
 - E. He is denying them one of their rights
 - F. Aims at discontent and ambition
9. Satan and Temptation
 - A. Appears to God as Satan, to us he appears as something else
 - B. Arguments are logical - make sense to us as opposed to God's commands that are not always logical - to our minds
 - C. Causes doubt
 - D. Herschel Hobbs - "to be righteous, man must have opportunity to be unrighteous and remain righteous"
 - E. Man is tempted at the top and fell to the bottom
 Instead of starting at the bottom and crawling up (evolution), man starts at the top and falls down. He is tempted under the most favorable circumstances and fails. "If my circumstances were better it would not be necessary to sin."
 - F. Substitutes his lies
 - G. Ultimately takes God's place
 - H. It had never occurred to her to doubt God
 - I. God has become a third party, He is not spoken to, or with but about. Instead of

obedience, now we have substituted theology. Faithfulness gives way to analysis and calculation.

J. Targeted her mind

K. What is the lie that rules humanity? That they do not have to listen to God, they can be their own person - we don't need God

10. *Broader issues*

A. Right and wrong - what is right and wrong?

B. Freedom and choice - did God make a mistake?

C. Do you think that Adam and Eve saw themselves as living in "rebellion" from God?

D. What does sin do for us?

E. Truth and lie

F. We all fall down

The Results? - 7ff