

Sermon Discussion

7 February 2021

Read Genesis 3:1-13 together.

Dig Deeper

Among most scholars, there are two major views regarding the identity of the serpent:

Option 1- It was a literal snake. Moses called it a beast of the field (v. 1). Though snakes do not speak, Satan could have spoken through a snake. He did this through demoniacs in Jesus' day. Also, a spirit being spoke through Balaam's donkey (Numbers 22:21-30).

Option 2- It was Satan himself described here as a snake. God called Satan a serpent elsewhere in Scripture (Revelation 20:2). Satan can and does speak as recorded elsewhere in Scripture (Job 1). What he said here is in character for Satan who is the "father of lies" (John 8:44).

The point of the text is that temptation came to Eve disguised and unexpectedly. The pattern of temptation is one Satan has used often and still uses. The **first step** was to plant a seed of doubt in Eve's mind concerning God's character (vv. 1-3). Satan focused Eve's attention on God's one prohibition. He suggested that God did not really want what was best for Adam and Eve but rather was withholding something from them that was essentially good.

The Hebrew word translated "crafty" ('arum) does not mean wicked as much as wise. Eve's sin was not so much an act of great wickedness as it was an act of great folly. She already had all the good she needed, but she wanted more. She wanted to glorify self, not God.

The **second step** in Satan's temptation was to deny God's word. In denying it he assigned motives to God that were not consistent with God's character. God's true motive was the welfare of man, but the serpent implied it was God's welfare at man's expense.

In her reply to the serpent's question, Eve misquoted God's command 2 times: **(1)** "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" becomes "the tree that is in the midst of the garden; and **(2)** she adds the prohibition "neither shall you touch it".

1. Most people would acknowledge that nobody's perfect. What explanations do people offer for this?
2. Do you ever find yourself judging Adam and Eve for disobeying God? Why?
3. What aspects of God's character do you find yourself doubting? What parts of God's Word do you struggle to believe?
4. How do you see the effects of the Fall in your daily life?
5. The sermon mentions Romans 5:12-17. What makes Jesus' response to temptation different than Adam's? Why did he not follow in Adam's footsteps?

Application & Prayer

- Think about some of the recurring temptations and struggles you deal with. How do you typically respond to temptation when it comes? Ask someone to pray with you about this.
- What would it practically look like for you to rely on Christ, Scripture, and other believers in moments of temptation? Praise God for His Son, His Word, and His church.
- Meditate of this verse: "And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification." (Romans 5:16)