

The Serpent Deceived Me *Genesis 3:1-8*

Theme: The Fall

Aim: To show that when evil was brought into the world, innocence was lost and everything changed.

1. I have heard it said that when President Kennedy was assassinated, the nation lost its innocence.
2. I am not sure about that, but I know that every child, as they mature loses that sense of innocence that seems so characteristic of childhood.
3. One thing that can take away that sense of innocence is the realization that evil exists in this world.
4. When that happens, everything changes.
5. For Adam and Eve, and in a very real way for all of mankind, that loss of innocence came when Satan's temptation became too much to resist.

I. The nature of the temptation, Genesis 3:1-8.

A. The temptation came from Satan, not from God.

1. We could spend some time talking about man being created with free moral agency, but suffice it to say he was and God allowed Adam and Eve to exercise theirs as he does us.
2. Who was it that tempted Jesus? Matthew 4:1. About this James writes: James 1:12-18.

B. The key to the power of the temptation is found in what Satan said it would do for Eve.

1. Verses 5 and 6.
2. At issue is the same thing that is at issue between each of us and Satan and God.
3. Who will control our lives? Who will control our destiny?
4. Really only two choices, God or Satan, for if we choose to be masters of our destiny we have sold out to Satan.

II. After they ate of the "forbidden fruit," what happened? We learn the answer by looking at three questions.

A. Where are you, verse 9?

1. Question not asked for information, but to make Adam think.
2. The man had never hidden from God before.
3. What had changed? His perception of himself and of God.
4. He had never been afraid, now he was. His relationship to God had changed. Just from eating a piece of fruit?
5. Indeed Adam and Eve had literally lost their innocence.

B. Who told you that you were naked, verses 10-12?

1. Again God knew the answer, he wanted Adam to think.
2. Sin and evil can give a perverse perspective on a lot of things. "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled" (Titus 1:15).
3. We have all noted how Adam tries to shift responsibility as though that would absolve his guilt.

C. What is this you have done, verse 13?

1. The woman is right, the serpent, Satan, deceived her.
2. What had she done? She had changed everything. She brought forth consequences that reach across time and touch each one of us today.
 - a. For the serpent, for Satan, 14-15. His ultimate demise predicted.
 - b. For the woman, 16.
 - c. For the man and all mankind, 17-24.
3. Again, all of this from just eating a piece of fruit? No, from choosing Satan over God.

III. Those same three questions provide lessons for us today.

A. What is this you have done?

1. Sometimes actions bring far reaching consequences.
2. That is true of our actions today.

B. Who told you that you were naked.

1. Have you lost your innocence to sin?
2. Do you know things you should not know because you have given in to temptations?

C. Where are you?

1. Where are you with God today?
2. Are you afraid and hiding from Him because of sin?

1. Yes, man has brought evil into the world.

2. But through the last Adam, the cure for sin has become real, Romans 5:12-15.

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