

DECIDING WHO TO BELIEVE

GENESIS 3:1-6

Text:

Introduction:

Every day we are faced with decisions great and small.

As Americans we are living in a season of decision.

Note: The Bible is filled with illustrations of people who made decisions.

Illustration:

The Two Thieves on the Cross

Luke 23:39

³⁹ And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

Luke 23:42-43

⁴² And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

All of us have been given the power of choice. Once we make the choice, it has power over us.

1. THE DESIGN OF A LOVING GOD (VS. 2:15-18)

Genesis 2:15-18

¹⁵ And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. ¹⁸ And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

A. His Prohibition

All the fruit including the tree of life in verse 22 were offered freely.

1. The Purpose (vs. 17)

The purpose was to test man's fidelity to God.

It was given as a test of obedience and a proof of his being independent.

Adam was placed in charge over the earth, but he must be accountable to God.

Genesis 1:26

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

2. The Knowledge (vss.3:2-3)

Genesis 3:2-3

² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³ But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Eve had knowledge of God's will. She had a slightly lower estimation of what He had said: (vs. 3)

Someone once said: "If you don't make up your mind, your unmade mind will unmake you."

B. His Punishment

Illustration:

I heard of two brothers, ages 8 and 4, who were discussing Adam and Eve. The eight-year-old asked: "How did Adam and Eve die?" And the four-year-old said: "They ate bad fruit."

Whether they realized it they spoke the truth.

Romans 5:12-14

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Quote: Every moment of man's life may be considered as an act of dying, till soul and body are separated.

2. THE DECEPTION OF A LYING DEVIL (VS. 3:1)

Genesis 3:1

¹ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

The serpent was Satan himself.

Revelation 12:9

⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

A. He Was Cunning (vs. 1a)

Note – Satan says, “Did God really say that?” “Is the Bible really the infallible word of God?”

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Illustration:

The Great Wall of China is a gigantic structure which cost an immense amount of money and labor. When it was finished, it appeared impregnable, but the enemy breached it. Not by breaking it down or going around it. They did it by bribing the gatekeepers.

2 Corinthians 11:3

³ But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

B. He Was Questioning (vs. 1b)

He questions God's Word.

C. He Denies the Word of God (vs. 4-5)

Satan knew the correct words of God.

He suggests to Eve that she can be her own god. This is the place where many Christians come....They desire to be their own god!

3. THE DECISION OF A LUSTFUL PERSON (VS. 6)

Genesis 3:6

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Would they believe God or Satan?

Eve had to decide who to believe.

Illustration:

We face similar choices every day. It's not a matter of rejecting your spouse or church, it's a matter of rejecting God's word.

1 John 2:16

¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

A. Lust of the Flesh—Good for Food

Galatians 5:16

¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

B. Lust of the Eyes—Pleasant to the Eye

James 1:15

¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

C. Pride of Life—to Make one Wise

James 4:6-7

⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Illustration:

On Sunday February 18, 2001, Nascar lost one of its greatest drivers. Dale Earnhardt, also known as “The Intimidator,” was in third place on the last lap of the Daytona 500 when his car was tapped from behind and sent head-on into the wall at 180 mph. In a matter of moments it was evident something was terribly wrong. Dale Earnhardt had died in the crash. On the following Monday an autopsy report revealed he had died of blunt force trauma to the head.

Some have suggested that if Earnhardt had been wearing the HANS (Head and Neck Safety Device), he would have survived the crash. Although this device was available, Earnhardt, like many other drivers that day, neglected to use it. His neglect of this safety device may have cost him his life.

Proverbs 16:18-19

¹⁸ Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹ Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Close:

Our philosophy of life is best expressed in the choices we make, not the words we say.

We must decide who we are going to believe.

