



"I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." -- Genesis 12:3

Date: January 12, 2025
Message: HUMANITY'S CITY
Teacher: Patrick Edwards
Passage: Genesis 3:1-4:24

The Big Idea: Where did things go wrong? How did we get here if the world God made was good and did what He created it to do? Something clearly went wrong. Against God's good design for the world human beings tried to devise their own plans and with that broke God's good world. But even their rebellion couldn't stop God as His grace is greater than all our sin.

These two chapters tell us of the perfect creation becoming imperfect through the cunning deceit of a serpent. The serpent convinces Eve to doubt God's goodness, and in response she disobeyed God and convinced Adam to do the same. This is the fall of mankind. With this act of disobedience, sin entered the world. This negatively impacted all of creation. Through Adam and Eve, sin became an inevitable part of human nature.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 15 (Genesis 3:1-24)

1. What food do you find especially tempting?
2. In your early years, tell us about a time when you got in big trouble with your parents.
3. What are your feelings toward hide and seek games? (the kids' game, Easter eggs, scavenger hunts, to capture the flag) Why are these games so fun?
4. Who is the serpent? Real creature? Mythical creature? (In the culture around Moses, the fertility serpent goddess was an object of worship. Later, in Jesus' day, the serpent was identified as Satan).
5. Which parts of the serpent's statements (Genesis 3:1,4,5) are true, and which are false? (compare 3:4-5, 3:22, 5:5).
6. How might someone today fall prey to the enemy's temptations? (Did God really say...?)
7. How can something created good (the beauty, nourishment, and taste of the fruit) be wrong when it feels so right?
8. Why do you think Adam ate the fruit? Do you think he could have resisted? Do you sense Adam is more, less, or equally responsible in this story?
9. Compared to Genesis 2, how has the relationship changed between the man and the woman? Their relationship with God?

10. What does it say about God that he would allow them to fall to this temptation?
11. From this story, how might you define sin?
12. Where in this story do you find any good news?
13. If Jesus is the ultimate offspring of Adam and Eve (and is Satan's enemy), and if Jesus is the promised tree of life (Gen 3:24, Rev 2:7), what does that mean for us sinners?
14. Compare the temptations of Jesus to what we see here. How are they similar? How were His responses different?
15. Why is it so difficult to admit you are wrong? ("I am sorry" can be hard to say)
16. Why are we attracted to do what God has forbidden?
17. How does this original sin affect us on a daily basis?
18. What do these verses tell us about temptation and how to resist it?
19. What lies do people tend to believe these days?
20. When do you feel naked before God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 15 (Genesis 4:1-24)

1. Whom did you envy as a child? Why this person?
2. Did you ever suspect your parents played favorites among your siblings?
3. Since God accepts both animal and grain sacrifices (Lev 6:14-30), why do you think God rejects Cain's offering?
 - a. Only a blood sacrifice, in place of a human death, would cover one's sin? (Lev 4-6)
 - b. Cain had a bad attitude and a lack of faith. (Heb 11:4, 1 John 2:9-11)
 - c. Cain's offering didn't mean anything to him. (Isaiah 1:10-20)
 - d. Cain's offering didn't embody social righteousness. (Amos 5:21-24)
4. When God calls Cain to "do what is right," (Gen 4:7) what does this tell you about the source of mankind's anger? The strength of anger? God's way of soothing anger?
5. Why does God approach Cain as he does? Why not directly accuse him?
6. For what was Cain punished? (Wrong sacrifice? Hateful attitude? Murderous act? Failure to master his sin? Attempt to cover up his sin?)
7. Would honesty with God have reduced his punishment?
8. Did Cain ever repent of his sin?
9. Why did God choose to protect Cain?
10. How is this similar to Gen 3? (A story of mankind in exile? Or a cycle of sin? Or judgment and mercy on display?)
11. How do you deal with your anger? (Vern Volcano? Suzie Suppression? Tina Tight-lip? Dennis Denial? What might you want to do differently?)
12. Cain was promised frustration at work and restlessness in life (Gen 4:11-12). How are you experiencing either of these?
13. Are you your brother's keeper? How so? What kind of "keeping" do you do? (Nagging? Parenting? Covenanting? Praying?)

PRAYER FOCUS: Genesis 4:26 – at that time when men began to call on the name of the Lord. Pray that we will be more obedient to what God has called us to do. Knowing God's Word can certainly help us to know God and what he desires for us. Father, help us to conform to the image of your Son, a little more each and every day.