

SERIES VERSE:

Jeremiah 17:7-8 ⁷ "... blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. ⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (NIV)

THE SETTING

Genesis 2:8-9 ⁸ "Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there He put the man He had formed. ⁹ The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." (NIV)

Genesis 2:15-17 ¹⁵ "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." (NIV)

THE FALL

Genesis 3:1-6 ¹ "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." (NIV)

TRICKS OF TEMPTATION

1. DOUBT

Genesis 3:1 "... Did God really say ..."

1) She MINIMIZED God's generous provision.

Genesis 2:16 ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." (NIV)

Genesis 3:2-3 ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" (NIV)

2) She WEAKENED the penalty for disobedience.

3) She ADDED to what God did not allow.

v. 3 – God said, "You must not eat from it ... and you must not touch it"

Big lie: To view God's standards as UNREASONABLE restrictions—Did He really?

2. DECEPTION.

Genesis 3:4 "You will not certainly die ..."

Big lie: People WILL NOT reap what they sow—You will certainly not die!

3. DESIRE

Genesis 3:5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- Pleasure—it looked good
- Possession—delight to my eyes—coveting—I want it
- Power—I can be like God (pride)

Big lie: Encourages DISSATISFACTION with our God-appointed role—you can become like God.

DISASTER OF DISOBEDIENCE

1. SHAME—loss of innocence

Genesis 3:7 “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were named; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”

2. FEAR

Genesis 3:8 “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

3. BLAME

Genesis 3:9-13 “⁹But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” ¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you were naked?” Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” ¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it. ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

4. STRUGGLE

Genesis 3:14-15 “¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Curses are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.”

5. SUFFERING.

Genesis 3:16a “To the woman He said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children ...”

Genesis 3:17-19 “¹⁷ To Adam He said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

6. CONFLICT in relationships.

Genesis 3:16b "... Your desire will be for your husband, and He will rule over you."

7. DEATH (spiritual and physical)

Genesis 3:21-22 ²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

8. SEPERATION from God

Genesis 3:23-24 ²³ So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."

THE HOPE

1. The Lord SEEKS us out.

Genesis 3:9 *"But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

2. The Lord SHOWS mercy.

Genesis 3:21-22 ²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

3. The Lord has a plan to SAVE us.

Genesis 3:15 *"I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."*

1 John 3:8 *"The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." (NIV)*

Romans 16:17-20 ¹⁷ I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you

have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naïve people. ¹⁹ Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of your Lord Jesus be with you.” (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

1. Trust in God’s WISDOM.

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.” (NIV)

2. Trust in God’s GOODNESS.

Revelation 22:1-3 ¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. One each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse ...” (NIV)

Revelation 2:7 “... To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (NIV)

COMMUNION

Romans 5:15-19 ¹⁵ ... For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” (NIV)

