

Sermon Series – New Beginnings

Sermon Title – The Devil in the Details

Sermon Text – Genesis 3

Last week we talked about the origin of beginnings – the creation of all things. That God created, & that what He did create, He created “good!”

So why is our world such a mess? _____

Why is there evidence of brokenness all around us? _____

Why does evil exist in our world when God created it good? _____

- Some will say that by observing the condition of our fallen/broken world that is all the evidence needed to conclude that God does not exist!

- Others will say that if He does exist, then He must not be all-powerful!

- Still others will say that if He does exist, then He must not be good!

Genesis 3, and the fall, is not a result of a God who isn't there, or a God who isn't all-powerful, or isn't good. Gen. 3 is about the creation rebelling against it's Creator, and the consequent arrival of sin, and brokenness, in our world!

God is not to blame for the condition of our world, we are! Genesis 3

Not all beginnings are good. Genesis 1&2 tell us of the arrival of life, and all things good, but this chapter tells us of the arrival of disfunction & death!

Genesis 3 introduces us to sin, and the devil is in the details! Let's dig a little deeper into this chapter & discover the origin of sin, that we might recognize it in our own lives, and turn from it while turning to our God-given remedy!

The process of decent into sin (how Satan leads humanity to destruction)

D – Distort The serpent's first attack was to distort man's perception of the goodness of God! Vs. 1 - **“Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”** God didn't say that at all, He said quite the opposite!

D – Doubt The serpent's second attack was to create doubt that this good God, and His Word, can be trusted! Vs. 4 - **“You will not surely die.”**

D – Deceive The serpent then promised what he could never produce! Vs. 5 - **“You will be like God...”** But the irony is that man was already in many ways like God, created in His image.

D – Desire The serpent was able to ignite a desire in them that led them away from God. Vs. 6 - **“when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes...”** How could Adam and Eve have been dissatisfied with all of God's provisions in the garden?

D – Disobedience It all led to disobedience! Vs. 6 - **“she took of its fruit & ate, & she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”**

In this moment a new reality began (a new beginning)! **Sin** had entered into God's good creation, and the results would be devastating!

D – Disappointment Sin always overpromises and under satisfies! Vs. 7 - **“Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made for themselves loincloths.”**

D – Distance Sin always causes a separation between man & God. And our natural response to it is to run & hide, like Adam & Eve did! **Vs. 10**

D – Denial Sin leads us to deny the severity of our actions and deny our responsibility for them! **Vs. 12-13** But denial doesn't change the truth!

D – Disease Is defined as - A condition that impairs normal functioning and is typically manifested by distinguishing signs and symptoms (sickness).

- Serpent – Vs. 14 - **“on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat...”**

- Woman – Vs. 16 - **“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing.”**

- Adam/Man – Vs. 17-19 - **“Cursed is the ground because of you... In pain you shall eat of it... By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread...”**

D – Difficulty Work existed in the garden before the fall. So did marriage. Childbirth seemed to be part of the origin plan as well. What changed is the ease by which we engage in these things. Everything got harder/painful!

D – Disorder Vs. 16 - **“Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, and he shall rule over you.”** God's good created order was put into disfunction!

D – Death Vs. 19 - **“for you are dust, & to dust you shall return!”** It wasn't only physical death that was introduced, but spiritual death as well – **Vs. 22-24**

Everything good that God had created was now distorted by sin, broken by the fall, in need of restoration (a new beginning). And **as bad as the news is in Genesis 3, it also introduces the protoevangelium** (the 1st gospel)! **Vs. 15**

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