**ADAM, WHERE ARE YOU?**

October 01, 2017

Genesis 3:1-24

Key Verse 3:15, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and here; he will crush your hers, and you will strike his heal.”

In Genesis 1 and 2, we learned God's creation of all universe; the heavens and the earth, all things on earth and especially man in his own image. When God created all things and man as the crown of his creation, everything was perfect, good, and beautiful. The world was full of God's goodness, love, light, and happiness. But when we come to Genesis 3, suddenly the atmosphere is changed. Man's innocence, holiness, and perfect love relationship are gone. Shame, fear, guilt, and making excuses and blaming others mentality replaced man's beautiful image given by God. What happened to the first man Adam? Adam disobeyed Creator God. As its result, man was lost from God. Man became a slave to Satan. Even the whole earth was put under God’s curse. Today in this chapter we will learn 3 things: (1) the fundamental root cause of man's original sin, (2) God’s calling to Adam for his repentance. “Adam, where are you?”, (3) God’s curse and his redemption plan for mankind.

1. **Satan's temptation and man's fall (1-7)**

Genesis 3 starts with the appearance of Satan who was personified in the form of a serpent. The author of Genesis does not tell us about Satan's origin. But in verse 1, he does tell us that he was crafty and that he was a created being. The implication of other Scriptures (Rev12;7-9; Jude 6;2; 2Pet 2:4) is that Satan was a beautiful and powerful angel who forgot his position, rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. In John 8:44, Jesus said that he was a liar; the Father (the Author) of lies and a murderer from the beginning. This shows us Satan's characteristics and what he works for.

In verses 1-7, when we carefully observe Satan's temptation of the woman, the purpose of his temptation of her is clear. It was to lead her to listen to and follow his words instead of obeying God's word. The Bible says that we are slaves of the one whom we obey (Rom 6:16). By disobeying God and obeying Satan, mankind would come under Satan’s authority and becomes his slave.

How did Satan lead the woman to disobey God? The key strategy of Satan's temptation was to plant “doubt” of God's love and goodness. Look at verse 1. Oneday Satan appeared to the woman in the form of a serpent and said to her, “Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?” Satan twisted and exaggerated God’s one restriction for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as if it was for everything. Satan’s purpose was to try to lead her to doubt God's goodness and his love by planting negative image of God. Think about what Satan questioned. If God really said, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden.” how could man live on? They could not but starve to death. Then, God is very cruel and oppressive God not loving and caring God. In verses 4-5, Satan listened to the woman’s answer and said, “You will not certainly die; God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When he said, “You will not certainly die.”, he was removing the absoluteness from God’s word. He was saying that obeying God’s word is not really a life and death matter. Then he suggested that God’s motive in forbidding them to eat from one tree was not love for protection but tyranny, and that God was withholding from them something very good. In this way he led her to doubt the goodness of God. When doubt of God’s love took root in her heart, and when the holy reverence of God and his word was shaken, she could entertain the pride that she would be like God and the possibility of disobedience. She became vulnerable to temptation.

Then what was it in her attitude toward God’s word and blessings that weakened her? In the first place, she was not grateful to God for his gracious and abundant provision for her needs and happiness. The good and delightful trees of the garden were all prepared by God. He had commanded man to eat freely of their fruit. But the woman took this gift and blessing for granted. (2) At the same time, she put unnecessary emphasis on the negative part of God’s command. (God did not say, “Don’t touch it”; he said, “Don’t eat it.”) In the second place, she did not pay careful attention to God’s word, or hide God’s word in her heart. Instead, she accepted Satan’s words. He had told her that eating the fruit would make her as wise as God, and she believed him. (Satan didn’t tell her the tragic consequences of disobedience.) When she believed his word, her physical desires became unrestrained. Unlike before, the fruit of forbidden tree looked beautiful and delicious. It became very desirable. So, without any further thought, she took it and ate. Her act was an act of obedience to Satan and an act of disobedience to God. She moved from the kingdom of God to the kingdom of Satan. Guilt longs for company. So, she gave some of the forbidden fruit to Adam. He also, without thinking further, ate it. In this way both disobeyed God’s absolute command. What was the consequence?

Let’s look at verse 7. “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” As Satan had said, their eyes were opened but it was not for what they had expected. “Their eyes were opened” meant, “they entered a new world that they had not known.” But it was not a good world but a very bad world. It was the world of broken innocence. Before they sinned against God, nakedness was not a problem. They were naked but had no shame about it because they were fully holy as they were created in the image of God. But now in their nakedness they felt shame, guilt, and fear. It means that after sinning against God, they came to have shame and guilt and fear to their fundamental existence; their true reality. So, to cover their shame, they sewed fig tree and made coverings for themselves. In verse 8, when they heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they immediately hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Man was created to live before the presence of God and for the glory of God. For this reason and purpose God created man in his own image. But after sinning against God, man became a being hiding from God. Man came to love darkness more than God’s light. This was the consequence of sin; which Satan did not mention to the woman. Man fell from God’s glorious kingdom into Satan’s kingdom.

1. **Adam, where are you? (8-14)**

When man sinned against God, how did God deal with him? Let’s look at verses 8-9. God visited the garden of Eden and came to Adam and called to him, “Adam! Where are you?” Here, let’s think about the meaning of God’s question to Adam. Was God asking to Adam because he did not know where he was and what he had done. Obviously not. Then what was God asking to Adam? God already knew Adam was hiding among the trees. God already knew what he had done. Then what was God asking to Adam? Since God already knew where he was and what he had done, he could come right away in front of him and condemn him immediately. Then why didn’t God condemn him in his first place but asked, “Adam! Where are you?” God wanted to give him an opportunity to confess his sin; genuine admittance of his sin; asking for the forgiveness of his sin. God was asking, “Adam, where you were suppose to be but now where you are?” God was not asking his physical location but his spiritual state; his spiritual reality. God was expecting Adam to take full responsibility for his act of disobedience; genuine admittance of sin; his true repentance. But Adam failed in using the opportunity of repentance. Fear; fear of punishment blocked him from genuine repentance and made him make excuse blaming others. In verse 12, man blamed the woman and God who gave the woman to him. In verse 14, the woman blamed the serpent. Adam and the woman were both lost and they were completely overwhelmed by Satan’s grip; fear. When man sinned against God and failed in repentance, did God give up mankind? God did not give up mankind. God still showed his love and hope for the redemption of mankind.

1. **God’s curse and his redemption plan for mankind (15-24)**

When man and the woman failed in repentance, the first thing God did was to curse Satan. But embedded in his curse is a precious promise that plants hope in the hearts of all men. Let’s look at verses 14-15. God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, ‘Cursed 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. 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.” In God’s appointed time, an offspring of woman would come to crush the head of Satan. He would be painfully wounded by Satan, but he would win the victory. This is early version of good news written in the Bible for the first time; the first promise of Messiah who would save all people on earth from Satan’s grip and sin. This is amazing hope for all fallen men who are in desperate need for their salvation.

After cursing Satan completely, God gave specific punishment to woman and man. To woman two punishments were given. First one was painful childbearing. Second one was her cursed desire for her husband. Before sinning against God, woman was free in co-working with her husband in healthy and joyful friendship and companionship. But now she came to live with slave mentality to her husband under his tyrannical rule over her. In human history there have been so many real stories of woman’s sorrowful and mistreated life and even now. Only Jesus can set women free from their cursed life. To man, God’s punishment was to change the meaning of their work. Before man’s fall, their work was to work for the glory of God as his steward. Man did not need to worry about physical survival because God already provided plentiful food. But now man must work for their physical survival. God also cursed the ground; the environment in which man must work. Since the ground and environment was cursed because of man’s sin, man’s life would be very tough. After hard life, man’s final enemy, death would wait for them both. In verse 19, God said, “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.” Now, in Jesus, we have freedom from such cursed life. Jesus promised in Matthew 6:33. “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all of these will be given to you as well.” This promise gives us freedom from our toilsome life for spoiling food. Jesus came to remove our curse and restore man’s mission for God. Jesus died and rose again to give us life, meaning, and mission back to mankind.

After punishing the woman and man, God still showed his love for fallen man. He covered their shame with durable leather clothes made from animal skins. For the first time, in the garden there was a crying of animal because God sacrificed animal’s life for the sake of man. This blood of animal was the foreshadow of coming Christ’s sacrificial blood which would be shed for the complete and permanent covering of man’s shame and guilt. God expelled them from the garden. To allow mankind to eat of the tree of life in the garden and live forever in his sinful state would be sentence them to permanent torturing like permanently living hell. God didn’t want it. Although God expelled them from the garden, he did not destroy the tree of life. God kept the tree of life in the hope that someday God would bring mankind back to paradise where is the tree of life and let them eat and enjoy eternal life. After Genesis 3, in the bible there is no more record of the tree of life on earth until in the last book of the bible; Revelation 22, where the tree of life is found in the New Haven; in the new Jerusalem. This is our eternal hope of eternal home.

Today, we learned that the fundamental root cause of man’s original sin; man’s disobedience to God’s command was “doubt”. Doubt is distrust and unbelief. Distrust of God’s love and his absolute word was the root cause of man’s original sin. Doubt brought man’s brokenness of thankfulness and brokenness of absolute reverence of God’s word. Doubt brought man’s pride and greed. People may think that doubt is merely phycological or emotional feeling. But in fact, doubt was the fundamental root cause of all sins. Jesus came to earth with solution for fallen men. What was his solution? It was simple. It was trust; believing in him. His first message in Mark 1:15 was, “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” Our life on earth is continual spiritual battle between distrust and trust; between doubt and faith. Jesus said in John 6:29, “the work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

When man was lost from God because of his sin, God called Adam, “Adam! Where are You?” It was his calling to give Adam an opportunity for his genuine repentance. God is not delightful to punish man but to see man’s genuine repentance. But because of fear; the fear of punishment, man and woman failed to come to God with responsible attitude; with their repentant heart. But God did not give up man and he showed his unchanging love. In his unhanging love, God still calls Adam and all his descendants, “Adam! Where are you?” Man is man only when he holds the word of God; God’s command firmly in his heart. Man is man only when he is restored in the image of God since he was created in the image of God. Man is man only when he stands firm as a ruler and God’s steward overcoming outer and inner circumstances or situation carrying out God-given mission. If we are failing in these, we have to listen to God’s calling, “Adam! Where are you?” People hide their real reality; broken innocence by covering them with their fig tree leaves; such as their worldly success, or achievement, or fame just like Adam and Eve covered their shame with fig tree leaves. But our such kind of outward clothes cannot cover our inner broken innocence. Our inner broken innocence can be restored only when we come to God as we are with genuine admittance of our sin; our genuine repentance without covering ourselves by anything that belongs to this world. God gave us Jesus to permanently cleanse our shame and guilt and clothes us with his righteousness prepared on the cross and bring us back into his eternal paradise where is the tree of life. Our suffering life on earth is temporal and it was designed for discipline to learn valuable godly character to help us to grow in the image of God. So, we have nothing but thanks to God while we are on earth or in heaven. May God bless each of us to hear God’s calling so that each day we may stand before the presence of God and live for the glory of God no matter what. I pray in Jesus name. Amen.