

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Genesis 3 is where it all goes horribly wrong.

We're first introduced to the serpent, who was craftier than any other animal God had made. (v.1a) In his craftiness, he leads the woman to doubt God's Word. While it's unclear what Eve was told by Adam, as she wasn't yet created when God forbade Adam from eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen. 2:17), already Eve seems to be adding to God's Word. Already, mistrust is present, or there was miscommunication that was passed down. Either way, the serpent builds on what Eve says to trick her into believing God's restriction was for *His* good, not theirs: "For God knows that when you eat of it...*you will be like God.*" (Gen. 3:5)

Cracks are forming in God's good world. The woman sees that the fruit looks pleasing both to the eyes and stomach. She goes even further in noticing that it could make one wise. Unsatisfied with being like God, with being made in His image, she now tries to *become* Him. And so she took the fruit and ate.

Adam is no better—we're not sure what he told Eve, *if* he told her at all. Now we see him standing next to her as this happens, failing to rebuke the serpent and failing to protect her. He, too, takes of the fruit from her and eats.

What follows is a tragic disaster of epic proportions.

Man's relationship with God, with each other, and with work are fractured at that very moment. God puts a curse on both man and woman: she will bring forth children in pain, while he will eat from the ground in pain. (v.16-19) While their banishment from the Garden of Eden might seem like the final straw, God is gracious both to clothe them and their nakedness, and to promise hope of future restoration: one day a Messiah will come, who will make right all the wrongs they have done.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

What is the most ridiculous thing you've ever blamed on someone else (whether it's a family member, a friend, a colleague, or a pet etc.) to get out of trouble? What was the reason behind your decision, and what happened afterwards?

QUESTION TWO:

Whether it was born from mistrust of God or a misunderstanding passed down from Adam—how does Eve's response to the serpent in Genesis 3:2-3 differ from the original command given to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17? What does it look like for us to believe the lie that God is holding out on us, and what can it lead to?

QUESTION THREE:

Once Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness and shame, they covered themselves up with fig leaves.

What are some metaphorical fig leaves (e.g. career, material possessions / finances, relationships etc.) that we hide behind to feel acceptable to others? How do these things compare with the permanent covering of Jesus' blood shed on the cross for us, and how does He take away our shame?