

## • LESSON 4 (January 25) •

# The Beginning of Sin

Unfortunately, not all beginnings are good. While we are told nine different times in Genesis 1 and 2 about what was good in God's creation, Genesis 3 is our introduction to evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. (Gen 3:1)

- ❖ Can we be certain about the identity of this serpent? If so, how?
- ❖ Meditate on the "crafty" description for a moment. What do you make of that word?

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3:1-5)

- ❖ What can we know about Eve based on her response in Genesis 3:2-3?
- ❖ What is the serpent doing in these verses?
- ❖ "For God knows..." What was crafty and alluring about the serpent's statement in Genesis 3:5?

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (Gen 3:6-7)

- ❖ Is there anything we can learn from the vivid description of temptation in Genesis 3:6?

- ❖ “Then the eyes of both were opened...” What does this mean?
- ❖ Why did Adam and Eve immediately sew fig leaves together and make themselves loincloths?

Take your time with Genesis 3:8-24 and let’s really work to understand the serious impact of sin’s introduction into God’s world.

- ❖ According to Genesis 3:8, what has changed? And *why* has it changed?
- ❖ According to Genesis 3:12, how does the beginning of sin impact the first marriage?
- ❖ What can we learn, especially as far as beginnings are concerned, from Genesis 3:14-15?
- ❖ What can we learn, especially as far as beginnings are concerned, from Genesis 3:16?
- ❖ What can we learn, especially as far as beginnings are concerned, from Genesis 3:17-19?
- ❖ What else seems to have its beginning in Genesis 3:21?
- ❖ While we have already noted several beginnings in Genesis 1-3, the conclusion of Genesis 3 describes a tragic end. What is coming to an end in Genesis 3:22-24?

Finally, turn to Romans 8:18-25 and carefully reflect on what Paul is writing to Christians.

- ❖ What does this have to do with Genesis 3? What does it have to do with us?