

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 15 – God Comes to Eden Part 6

Notes And Helps to Instructors

Thank you for volunteering to lead a group through the treasures of God's word! You may feel overwhelmed or inadequate, but you can do this! The leader notes are designed to help you grow in knowledge and love for Christ and for you to help pass what you have received to your group. Here are some suggestions to help equip you to grow in your teaching and leading ability.

- These lessons could simply be read, and a group would receive something but that is not how they are designed. The notes are designed to grow you as a leader so you might tailor the lesson for the needs of your group. Some groups may not have much of a knowledge base in the bible, so the concepts must be brought down to their level. Other groups may have a large knowledge base and you may challenge them with more information. The key is to know your group. If you begin leading a group in one way and find that it is not connecting, it is alright to modify and bring down or raise up the level of information.
- The more preparation you do the stronger you will be as a leader. Let the study material be a joy for you! Let it feed you as you prepare! The more you are fed the more you have to give to your group.
- There is no set time on how long a lesson may take. Lessons could be slowed down and take several weeks to finish. Perhaps in leading a group, one question captivates the group and leads to a fruitful conversation. If that happens, that is good! You are in no hurry. If you can finish the material in a week, then great! But if it takes several, that is great as well! The important thing is that they receive deeply from the gospel of Jesus.
- Pray about your lesson! Pray as you prepare! Pray as you teach! Remember we do not teach or exercise our gifts in our own strength. The Holy Spirit is the one who opens the heart and mind. Pray for the Spirit to move in your heart and the heart of the group.

May our merciful Triune God bless your study and your group that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

In Christ,

Prison Discipleship Ministry

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Introduction: Re-read Genesis 3:1-12. In this lesson (Genesis 3:13) we will look at God's question to Eve. Before doing this lesson you should review Lessons 11-14.

Read this passage at least five times then answer the questions as best you can:

¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?"
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Gen. 3:13 NKJ)

In asking Eve about what she had done, what does God want from her?

Whom does Eve blame for her sin? How is her answer like Adam's?

What did the serpent do to get Eve to sin?

Was deception by the serpent a valid excuse for Eve's sin? Why/why not?

Read Revelation 12:9. Who is this serpent? What are his other names?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-15. Is that serpent still at work? What does he try to deceive us about?

Rather than being a serpent as in Eden what does Satan transform himself into?

How can we avoid being deceived by Satan? How does one discern the real Jesus from the many false Jesuses?

Read John 8:42-45. What does Jesus say about the devil? What are his techniques? What is the result of listening to him?

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To whom was Jesus speaking? Did they look evil? Why did Jesus speak so harshly to them?

Can you name a false Jesus that someone preaches about today?

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In asking Eve about what she had done, what does God want from her?

Just like God did with Adam, God the Father is looking for her to confess her sins and repent.

Whom does Eve blame for her sin? How is her answer like Adam's?

Eve blames the serpent, but moreover, she is really blaming God. She is saying, "That serpent that you allowed to be here, that you created, that you didn't remove for me, that you did nothing about, that serpent that is your fault that it is even here to talk to me God, that serpent deceived me, and I ate." Adam did the very same thing. He blamed God as he blamed his wife for leading him into sin. They blamed God and circumstances and never confessed their own sin and commission of violating God's command.

What did the serpent do to get Eve to sin?

The story comes to us in Genesis 3:1-6. Reread this section. The serpent told venomous lies. Humanity was made to be receivers of God's revelation, interpreters of God's world, and worshippers of God. These are the things Satan attacked. The first question the serpent said was, "Did God say you shall not eat of any tree of the garden?" The first question was a question to make her doubt God's word. "Did he say that? Are you sure you heard him right?" The question was of course not what God had said. God said that they may eat of any tree of the garden except the tree in the midst of the garden. And she responded, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 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. (Gen 3:2-3 ESV). She added to God's word by saying, "neither shall you touch it." That played right into Satan's trick. Satan asked a question that limited God's goodness, and she responded as if God has indeed limited his goodness to her and her husband. Satan then says, "You shall not surely die." The second thing Satan says attacks the interpretation of God's world. Satan called God a liar. That is not the way things work Satan says. The third thing he says is, "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 3:5 ESV)" Satan attacks our created mandate to worship God by saying, we can be our own god! So, the woman, seeing the fruit was pleasing to the eyes (lust of the eyes), was good for food (lust of the flesh), and desirous to make one wise (pride of life – 1 John 2:15-16), she took and ate and gave it to her husband who was with her, so Adam was there and passive in all her actions.

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Was deception by the serpent a valid excuse for Eve’s sin? Why/why not?

No, it was not. God gave his word that is truth, his presence that is power, and his promises that motivate for her not to fall for Satan’s deception. Eve could have used the words of God’s truth against his lies, called out to God for his help with the temptation, and remembered the life he promised to encourage her to turn away from that temptation to the goodness God held out to her.

Read Revelation 12:9. Who is this serpent? What are his other names?

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world-- he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Rev 12:9 ESV)

Here he is called the devil and Satan. “Satan” means adversary. “Devil” means slanderer, false accuser.

In Revelation 9:11, he is called Abaddon (Hebrew) and Apollyon (Greek) which mean destroyer.

In Isaiah 14:12, he is called day star son of the dawn (Day star or light bringer in Latin is Lucifer where we get that name)

Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-15. Is that serpent still at work? What does he try to deceive us about?

11:1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me!
2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. (2Co 11:1-4 ESV)

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. (2Co 11:13-15 ESV)

Yes the serpent is still at work. In fact, 1 Peter 5:8 says that Satan prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Ephesians 6:11-12 tells us, “11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

(Eph 6:11-12 ESV)

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Satan tries to deceive us, like Eve, away from a pure devotion to Christ and to follow a different Jesus; one that does not save.

Rather than being a serpent as in Eden what does Satan transform himself into?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 says that Satan appears as an angel of light. He appears glorious, holy, and powerful. He comes claiming to bear the words of God and to lead us into his light and truth.

How can we avoid being deceived by Satan? How does one discern the real Jesus from the many false Jesuses?

Listen to the students here. What ideas do they have? Any teaching or word that comes to us must be squared by the word. But not just out of context verses or phrases, but by the right use of that verse or passage in context. Context in that particular passage, that chapter, that book, that testament, and then the rest of the scriptures. Satan knows the Bible better than we ever will, and he can twist it masterfully as can his servants. Only by being soaked in the Word of God as the words of life where we not only read about Jesus, but encounter him by the Holy Spirit through those scriptures, especially as they are preached to us by men called by God to preach his word, do we grow in our discernment and are strengthened against the lies of Satan.

Read John 8:42-45. What does Jesus say about the devil? What are his techniques? What is the result of listening to him?

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. (Joh 8:42-45 ESV)

This passage tells us that he was a murderer and a liar. So listening to him leads to death.

To whom was Jesus speaking? Did they look evil? Why did Jesus speak so harshly to them?

Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees who were outwardly the most holy men in the world. They were well respected and had the Old Testament memorized so they were not ignorant at all about God's word. But, they searched the Scriptures because they thought that they could earn eternal life by being good, but they missed the very one who was life, Jesus and so their ministry was still one of death (John 5:39). Satan is ok filling us with all the words of the Scriptures as long as we miss Jesus in those scriptures.

Can you name a false Jesus that someone preaches about today?

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Listen to them and let them tell you what false Jesus' they have heard, or also, what false Jesus' they still believe. You might speak of the false Jesus of health, wealth, and prosperity (Charismatic Pentecostalism). You might speak of the Jesus who did not die for our sins (as in the Koran). You might speak of the Jesus who was nothing more than a good teacher (liberal Christianity). You might speak of the Jesus who cares only for politics and sees politics as the way to heal this world. Sadly, this world gives almost unlimited examples of false Jesus'.