

- ***Read Genesis 3:6-12*** In this text, from last week's daily Bible reading, we read of the fall of man. Obviously, this was major development in the story between God and man, and it sets the stage for the rest of the Bible story concerning God's reconciliation of man to Himself. It was in **Genesis 2:16,17** that the Lord God gave man every tree of the garden to eat of except one, and that one prohibited tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Our God was very clear when He said, "for in the day you eat from it you will surely die." God perfectly provided for Adam's every need, even providing for him a helper suitable for him.
- Yet, the bliss of the garden was short lived. Beginning in **Ch.3**, we see sin introduced into the world through the actions of Adam and Eve. Satan, through the serpent, approaches Eve and denies God's statement concerning their punishment for eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. "You surely will not die!" was the lie that he spoke to Eve. He spoke truth that their eyes would be open to good and evil, but God was not fearful of them becoming like Him, He feared the sin that would be made available to them and as we know that certainly did follow their eating of the tree.
- This evening, I would like for us to consider this situation from Adam's point of view. I believe that what transpired in the garden included 3 major failures on the part of Adam. These failures of Adam are things that we are just as susceptible to, today, as he was those many years. Let's consider the failures of Adam, and why we ought to be on guard against doing the same thing in our lives.

3 Ways In Which Adam Failed In The Garden

I. Adam failed to protect his wife's purity. (v.6)

- A. It is often assumed that Adam was somewhere else away from Eve while she was being tempted by the serpent, but I believe that the text indicates that Adam was with her during this incident.
1. The end of **v.6** says that "she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."
 2. Every credible translation that I looked at included a similar phrase. The NIV and ESV get even more specific in saying "who was with her". This has me convinced that Adam was present with Eve during her discussion with the serpent.
 3. If this is the case, as the text seems to indicate, then why in the world didn't Adam stand up and stop this foolishness from taking place?
 4. Adam's first failure of the day was in the fact that he failed to protect the purity of his wife. The temptation was clear and present, yet he didn't step up and stop what should have been an obvious danger for his wife, especially once a snake starts speaking up against God.
 5. I can't say for sure, but I just can't see it being a normal day in the garden of Eden for snakes to be talking. Adam should have stepped up and stopped Satan from mocking God and leading his wife against the commands of God, but instead he simply stood by and allowed his wife to sin against the Lord God.
- B. We have a responsibility to watch out for the purity of others.
1. As husbands, we have been given the responsibility to preserve the purity of our wives just as Christ preserves the purity of His Church. **(Eph. 5:25-29)**
 2. This responsibility isn't just for the husband towards his wife, but it is for all people towards their brethren. Paul tells the Galatians that they are to strike to restore the brother or sister who is caught up in sin **(Gal. 6:1)**.
 3. But I would suggest that this doesn't mean that we don't care and act until they are caught up in sin, but that we should look out for them and pull them away from situations where they might get caught up in sin. That we might snatch them out of the fire so to speak before they truly get burned. Jude spoke on this at the end of his short letter. **(Jude 17-23)**
 4. How awful it is for us to see a brother or sister lost to sinful living and knowing that we had the opportunity to stop it before they became fully consumed with it. Adam had the opportunity to preserve his wife's purity, but he didn't and he and his wife both suffered for it.

II. Adam failed to stand up and face the situation. (vv.7-10)

- A. After their eyes were opened to their sin, Adam hid from God when He walked in the garden.
1. Adam felt shame once his innocence was taken away. He felt shame for his actions, and instead of going to God for help in this time of need, he decided to try and hide from God.

2. You would think that Adam recognized that he couldn't hide from God, but obviously Adam wasn't making the best decisions on this particular day.
 3. Eventually, after prompting from God, Adam appears and God begins to question him about what has taken place.
 4. Adam states that he was afraid because he was naked. His fear, caused by his sin, led him to hide from the situation instead of standing up and facing it with the help of the God who have provided everything from him up to this point.
- B. When we make mistakes, we can either stand up and face the situation, or we can be like Adam and try to act as if everything is fine and ok.
1. Our course of action after making a mistake should be pretty obvious, especially considering the fact that there is nothing that we can truly hide from. Sure we might be able to ignore and hide from bad situations in this life, but God is ever-present and aware of all things.
 2. Jesus states in the parable of the lamp that nothing will be hidden forever, but that all things will come to light. **(Luke 8:17)**
 3. The Hebrew writer goes even further to say that all present things are open and seen by the God of heaven. Nothing is hidden from His sight. **(Heb. 4:13)**
 4. To think that we can just ignore a bad situation and it will all go away is foolish. We must be willing to stand up and face bad situations that we have created for ourselves. We can't hide from God. Adam learned that in a very literal way in the garden, and we will learn that at the judgement if we try to hide from our sins.

III. Adam failed to take responsibility for his mistakes. (vv.11,12)

- A. Finally in **vv.11,12**, God asks how it is that Adam and Eve realize that they were naked. They should have been innocent in their knowledge, but that innocence was taken away when they ate of the fruit. Instead of owning his mistake, Adam decided to blame others.
1. At first glance, it seems as if Adam only blames one person, but in reality Adam tries to blame two different people for his mistake instead of accepting responsibility for his actions.
 2. He first tries to blame Eve for the fruit. After all, it was Eve who was tempted and gave into temptation **(I Tim. 2:14)**, and in the mind of Adam it was completely her fault for his mistake.
 3. And then on top of that, Adam blames God! For according to Adam, if you hadn't have made her then she wouldn't have been able to tempt me!
 4. Adam tried to blame anyone and every one he could in order to avoid having to accept responsibility for his own actions.
- B. Blaming others for our actions isn't something that is uncommon, today.
1. How often do we try to take the route of blaming others instead of taking responsibility for our actions. Some people would rather spend all of their time trying to blame others for their own actions instead of putting in the effort to fix their issues.
 2. The plain and simple truth is that each person is responsible for their own actions. No one can blame another for the decisions that they make.
 3. Ezekiel is very clear concerning this. It is the one who sins who will be responsible for their own sin. **(Ezek. 18:14-20)**
 4. The New Testament reaffirms this principle of personal accountability in **II Corinthians 5:10**. On the day of judgement we will have to answer for our own actions. We will not be able to put the blame on someone else. We are the ones who are in control of our own decisions and actions. No one can force of to do anything that we ought not do.
 5. Adam did not have to eat the fruit that was given to him by Eve. Yet, he did, and when called out on it he decided to blame everyone else on the planet instead of taking responsibility for himself.

Those things written in earlier times were written for us to learn by, and there are certainly lessons that we can learn from the failures of Adam in the garden of Eden. His mistakes can be out chance to learn without having to make the same mistakes ourselves. May God help us to remember the mistakes of Adam and avoid making these same mistakes that lead to failure in our own lives. May God be praised and glorified as we seek to serve Him better.