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THE ANATOMY OF SIN

GENESIS 3:1-24

INTRODUCTION :

There's a time for everything according to Ecclesiastes. **Read Ecclesiastes 3**

We have to go on a serious note because God is serious on this topic.

We discussed before that one of the jobs of the pastor is to watch God's flock.

Illustration : How does a worm enter the apple? Scientists found out that it doesn't come from the outside. It starts from the bud before it becomes a fruit, the insect will put her eggs in here and then when the apple becomes big, the worm inside also grows and would slowly eat the apple from the inside.

Such is the sinful nature that is inside of us. If we don't take any drastic actions on this then it will slowly and surely destroy the apple.

Now we will study the anatomy of sin.

Genesis 3: ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 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.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all the livestock

and all the wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

and you will eat dust

all the days of your life.

¹⁵ *And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^[a] and hers;
he will crush^[b] your head,
and you will strike his heel."*

¹⁶ *To the woman he said,
"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;
with pain you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."*

¹⁷ *To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I
commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'
"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life.*

¹⁸ *It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

¹⁹ *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."*

²⁰ *Adam^[c] named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.*

²¹ *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the
LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must
not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live
forever." ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground
from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[e] of
the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way
to the tree of life.*

PRAY

***I. SATAN'S DECEPTION**

If we know our enemy's ways then we will not easily fall into his trap.

***1. Satan disguises himself to God's people**

**1a Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.*

***The serpent was Satan.**

Proof? *Revelations 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.*

Remember : Eve hasn't known evil yet and knows that everything that God made is good.

***Read 2 Cor 11:14-15 :** *And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

Myth : There's this big myth in movies, stories and books that the devil looks really frightening. But in fact most of the time they look trustworthy, their promises or words sound sincere and their promise of pleasure is so enticing.

Application : he might be a friend, an officemate, someone you "idolize", even sometimes a spiritual leader who acts as if they are doing it for your good but "misleads" you simply because of two things : 1. he wants to do it to advance his own schemes 2. he doesn't know that he himself is mislead.

Proof : Ask anyone who was hooked on drugs or sex or an illicit relationship, who brought them there? Usually a person whom they think they can trust.

***2. Satan distorts God's command v. 1b**

**He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

***What did God really say?**

*Gen 2:16-17a And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are **free to eat from any tree** in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

Lesson : Satan will always check first your grasp of God's word. Because a Christian who doesn't know God's word is open game to him.

Note : This is the reason I do expository preaching and not topical. I want everything to come from God's Word. I don't want to preach anything that doesn't come from God's Word.

***Read Psalm 119: 11** *I have **hidden your word in my heart** that I might not sin against you.*

***Now look :** Gen 3:2-3 *2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, **and you must not touch it**, or you will die.'* "

Very Important : Satan knows that Eve doesn't have a firm grasp on God's Word because Eve added to it. God did not say "you must not touch it", it was only Eve who said that.

SUPER IMPORTANT : If there is one thing that Satan really wants is for you not to listen or to hear God's Word. Why? Because God's Word is the only thing that can destroy His plans.

**Ephesians 6 : ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

**Hebrews 4: ¹²For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

***Quote : (Show Bible first) A verse a day keeps the devil away.** --- written on the first Bible that was given to me as a gift by my Ninang (my first boss in advertising) who is born again and has planted the seed of God's Word in me. (A little story about this ninang of mine, I really found her weird at first because she was really into this Jesus and when an earthquake came she shouted to everyone, "Repent, Jesus is coming." But I found out from Edwin that before my Ninang became a Christian she was such a worldly person (you know advertising people right?)

***Observe again:** *Genesis 3: ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

Then

**Gen 2: ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? Satan is sowing the seed of discontent by making you focus on what you don't have or what you can't do.

Emphasis: I once heard a preacher preach that the first sin is not disobedience but discontentment.

***3. Satan discredits God's word v. 4**

****"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.***

***What did God really say?**

*Gen 2: ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it **you will surely die.**"*

Important Application : Satan will make you think that you can get away from the consequences of your disobedience. It's telling that God is lying.

Word of Warning : Don't think that if nothing is happening to us right now when we are continuously sinning that God overlooks it.

**Romans 2:4-6 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? ⁵But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶God "will give to each person according to what he has done."*

Illustration : An atheist professor trying to prove that God doesn't exist says, he will curse God for five minutes and if God doesn't strike him down in 5 minutes that showed that he doesn't exist. A famous theologian heard this and said, "Does Professor_____ think that he can consume God's patience in just 5 minutes?"

***4. Satan defames God's character. V. 5**

"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Observe : At this point, what Satan is saying has a grain of truth.

***Look at verse 7** when they ate the fruit, *"Then the eyes of both of them were opened."*

BUT what he is doing is trying to convince that God is not good because he doesn't want them to know the difference between good and evil.

Application : Remember that there are things God withholds from us even if we think it's good for us simply because he knows it's bad for us..

Question : Why did God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil there if He doesn't want man to eat it? Is He tempting man? OF COURSE NOT!!!

**James 1: ¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

(Remember the worm inside the apple)

Then why is the tree of knowledge of good and evil is there?

Answer : You were made in the image and likeness of God and what you have is free will. God wants you to use your free will at its maximum. The greatest exercise of free will is choosing to believe and obey God or not to believe and obey God.

Remember : Our purpose in life is to glorify God!!! When we choose to obey it glorifies Him!

Illustration : When my children are being praised because they are obedient, they get the honor but the parents get the ultimate honor. The same with us when we obey God, we bring honor to Him. We bring him dishonor if we don't obey Him.

**Romans 2: ²³You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? ²⁴As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."*

***II. MAN'S DESTRUCTION**

***1. The Path To Sin**

Note : Being tempted is not sin, giving in to temptation that is sin.

***A.) Notice the subtlety of Satan**

Satan will not "directly" push you to sin.

Application : He will not say directly "kainin mo yung prutas" or "nakawin mo yan" or "makipag-date ka dyan sa hindi mo asawa"...He will say..."Wala namang nakakakita e" or "wala namang nakakaalam" That's immediately denying God because God sees and knows everything or the famous words, "God will understand"

Quotation : We become atheists when we sin.

Example : Chicay is not a jealous woman because she always says to me "B, bakit ako magseselos, e matindi ang bodyguard mo."

***B.) Notice the seduction of sin**

***a.) It looks and feels good at that time**

**v.6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye,*

***b.) It looks and feels right at that time**

**v.6... and also desirable for gaining wisdom*

Illustration : How do the eskimoos catch a wolf? They would smear blood on a sharp knife then cover it with ice. The wolf would smell it and then start to lick the ice to get to the blood but since he gets greedy for the blood, he keeps on licking and licking it until he doesn't notice that what he's licking is his own blood cut by the knife.

***Observe : Look at the verbs of verse 6, how it escalates to become sin**

*⁶ When the woman **saw** that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she **took some** and **ate** it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

1. **Saw** - Shift of Focus "lust, envy, jealousy, greed and etc... starts with our focus"

***Solution :** *Hebrews 12: 1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2Let us fix our eyes on Jesus*

2. **Took** -

Solution : *Genesis 39: 7... Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" ⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹ No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" ¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.*

*11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and **ran out of the house**.*

3. **Ate** - sad to say, this is now the sin which has its consequences – *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...*

2. The Product of Sin

***a. Shame v.7-10**

7And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Application : I don't need to explain this since we have all been through this. But the question is

HOW DO WE HIDE OUR GUILT AND SHAME? V.10-13

**He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Application : We don't need to explain this again since we've done it already several times. Blame everyone, our situation and etc. etc. on why we did it except ourselves.

***Quotation :** All blame is a waste of time. No matter how much fault you find with another, and regardless of how much you blame him, it will not change you. The only thing blame does is to keep the focus off you when you are looking for external reasons to explain your unhappiness or frustration. You may succeed in making another feel guilty of something by blaming him, but you won't succeed in changing whatever it is about you that is making you unhappy.

Wayne W. Dyer, "Your Erroneous Zones"

b. Suffering v. 16-19

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the

tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

*18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

*19 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."*

Explanation : Sin will always have its consequence since God is a just God. Since by that act they declared independence from God, **God showed how it is to live independent of Him.**

***c. Separation v.23-24**

**23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side ^[a] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

***III. GOD'S DELIVERANCE**

***1. God plans man's salvation v.14-15 (He readily set it into place)**

*So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,
"Cursed are you above all the livestock
and all the wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.*

*15 And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring ^[a] and hers;
he will crush ^[b] your head,
and you will strike his heel."*

2. God provides for man's substitute. V. 21

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Note : They now know what death is with this act of slaying an animal.

***God's act of mercy.**

And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

Application : Man has already sinned. This throwing away of man from the Garden of Eden showed God's mercy simply because if they eat from the tree of life...they will live forever...in a state of sin... a life separated from God. But God loves us so much that He doesn't want us to be separated from Him forever. That's why He gave His Son Jesus Christ to die for us so whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life...

How did God provide for our substitute eternally...

Explain Old Testament ritual of sacrificing a perfect lamb :

***Then read...**

*Hebrews 10 : ¹The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ²If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴**because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.***

*¹¹Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²**But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.** ¹³Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Summons :

How do we deal with sin?

***If you are not a Christian**

Acts 2: ³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸Peter replied, "**Repent** (change of mind or course) and **be baptized** (be identified with Christ)), every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Etymology : repent (metanoeo) baptized (baptize)

**Romans 10:⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

If you are a Christian :

*1 John 1:⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Etymology : confess (homologeo) homou (same; together) – logos (word, mind, thinking, reasoning)

2 Chronicles 7: ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

S.G.D.