

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Matriarchs — Eve

Pastor Gabe Kasper

December 27, 2020

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Did you make any New Year's resolutions for 2021? Why or why not?

Reading: Genesis 3:1-21

Outline:

- I. The Danger of the Religious Question (v. 1-7)
 - a. Satan (= "Accuser" in Hebrew) calls into question God's own word by asking if God *really* said that Adam and Eve must not eat of any tree in the garden.
 - b. Dietrich Bonhoeffer calls asking "*Did/Didn't God actually say ...?*" the "religious question" because it overemphasizes one of God's attributes at the expense of the others and then claims to know more about how God really is than what he's revealed in his word.
Q: How does losing confidence in God's word help lead Eve and Adam into sin?
- II. The Pursuing Presence of God (v. 8-19, 21)
 - a. God's presence comes to the garden, but Adam and Eve hide because of their sin.
 - b. God pursues Adam and Eve despite their sin. Although their sin brings a curse and punishment, God clothes them and promises an offspring of Eve will crush the serpent.
Q: How do you see God pursue his people in the Old Testament? In the New?
- III. The Mother of Us All (v. 20)
 - a. Eve (= "Life" in Hebrew) receives her name because she was the mother of all the living.
 - b. Eve's name is an expression of hope for life in the presence of God.
Q: How does Jesus as Eve's seed perfectly fulfill this promise?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can asking the religious question to find a disconnect between our ideas of "God" and how God has revealed himself in his word potentially lead us into sin?
- 2) What causes you to doubt God's goodness or character? What leads you to hope in him?
- 3) What makes you want to hide from God in shame when you've sinned against him?
- 4) How can you instead run to God to cast your cares and burdens upon him as you repent?

Suggestions for further study:

- Romans 5:12-21 & 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 **Q: How does Christ reverse the curse of sin?**
- 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 **Q: Why does Paul strongly warn about being deceived by false teaching? Why do you think he compares this to Eve being deceived by the serpent?**
- **Reflect on the meaning of the names of people in the Bible. What can you learn from this?**

Closing Prayer: "Lord God we thank you that even though in our sin and rebellion, we separated ourselves from you, you refuse to let us fall away but you continue to pursue us. Your presence continued to pursue your people throughout the Scriptures and continues to pursue each one of us in our own lives. God we thank you for the presence of your Spirit, we thank you for the presence of your Son on Christmas, and God we pray that as your Spirit dwells within each one of us we would make your love and your grace and your presence manifest in this world. We pray this all in Jesus' name. Amen."