

Main Passage: Genesis 3:1-7

Theological Theme

Falling into the temptation to trust our own wisdom instead of God's always has consequences.

Introduction

- ① How do you see people today searching for “more” apart from God?
- ② Why is it problematic to search for fulfillment and satisfaction outside of God?

1. The Serpent's Temptation (Genesis 3:1)

In chapter 2 of Genesis, we get a beautiful picture of the creation that God called good (Genesis 2:8-9). Picture the most beautiful garden that you have ever seen. The natural beauty in gardens have the power to feel magical but consider how much more beautiful a garden planted by the Creator's own hand would be!

- ① How did the serpent twist God's words in the question posed to Eve?
- ② What would it have looked like for Eve to respond in faithful obedience to God?
- ③ What are some other ways the enemy seeks to portray the character of God wrongly?

2. Deceptive Reasoning (Genesis 3:2-5)

Eve began by refuting the serpent's claim (Genesis 3:2-3) but Eve's response was slightly different than God's original commandment (Genesis 2:16-17). Do you notice the difference? Eve said they must not eat or touch it, while God's commandment was simply not to eat from it.

- ① How did Eve misrepresent God's words in her response? How might we do that, even unintentionally?
- ② The serpent moved in with a more direct attack on God's Word as the conversation progressed. How have you seen that happen in moments you sought to fight against the schemes of the enemy?

- ❓ The serpent told Eve if she ate of the tree, she would be like God. How can modern tools like A.I. tempt humans to try and “be like God” when improperly used or relied upon?

3. Devastating Consequences (Genesis 3:6-7)

Eve fell for the lie that she could be “like God.” This dangerous line of thinking is a familiar one throughout the story of Scripture. This drove the people of Babylon to build a tower reaching into the heavens (Genesis 11:4). Job and his friends displayed this type of logic when they assumed they knew why God had allowed misfortune to befall Job, though they lacked the knowledge and perspectives to make that judgment (Job 38). The Proverbs repeatedly warn of the dangers of living in a way that seems right to us, but is outside of God’s desire and commandments. Adam and Eve’s disobedience cost them life in the beautiful garden God created.

- ❓ Where did Eve place her trust in these verses? How are we tempted to do the same?
- ❓ How are we to avoid disobedience to God when the temptations we face are “delightful to look at” and “desirable for obtaining wisdom”?
- ❓ Genesis 2:15 says Adam was placed in the garden to “work it and watch over it.” How did he fail in this call with the serpent? How should he have responded instead?

Conclusion

- ❓ Where are you tempted to focus on what you lack instead of what God has provided?
- ❓ How can tools like A.I. tempt us to believe we can be like God or operate at a capacity we were not meant to?
- ❓ How can we support and encourage one another in the proper use of technology like A.I. without seeking to overstep our boundaries and “become like God”?