

Adam: The temptation of man

Genesis 3: 1 – 7

1) The tempter

- The serpent is Satan or the devil
 - Revelation 12: 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.
 - He led the world astray in the Garden of Eden and he still leads the world astray today.
- God is not the tempter and doesn't tempt anyone.
 - James 1: 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.
- Satan is a deceiver – he sows doubt on the word of God. (v.1)
 - Did God really say...?
- Satan is a liar
 - You will not surely die. (v.4)
 - What did God say?
 - Genesis 2: 17 But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.
 - You will be like God
 - Genesis 3: 5 For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

2) The temptation

- Yielding to temptation is tantamount to loving the world more than you love God
- 1 John 2: 15 – 16 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.
- These three aspects of temptation were present when Adam and Eve were tempted.
- The lust of the flesh
 - The fruit was good for food.
 - It appealed to her fleshly appetite.
 - Paul highlights the lusts of the flesh in Galatians 5: 19 – 21
 - The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.
 - The lust of the flesh works on our natural desires and cravings.
 - These normally differ from person to person.
- The lust of the eyes
 - The fruit was pleasing to the eye
 - It appealed to what she saw.
 - We are often satisfied with what we have until we see something that looks good to have – a better house, a nicer car, a dress
 - Once we've been enticed to see something that we want more than what we have we start looking around to get what we want. We lose our satisfaction with what we have.
 - We are captivated and don't let go until we eat of the fruit of what we have seen.
- The boastful pride of life
 - The fruit was desirable for gaining wisdom
 - The Hebrew word used for desirable here is the same word used for covet in the ten commandments in Exodus 20: 17
 - Wisdom is a good and honourable thing but when it's sought after – coveted – so that we can boast in our great wisdom and knowledge then it's a bad thing
 - The wisdom of the world is futile
 - 1 Corinthians 3: 18 – 21 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; and again, "The

Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” So then, no more boasting about human leaders!

- The world is full of its own wisdom apart from God.
 - The wisdom of education
 - The wisdom of technology
 - The wisdom of literature
 - The wisdom of leadership
 - The wisdom of business
- How much of this wisdom has brought about the righteousness of God in this world?

3) The consequences

- Yielding to temptation has consequences.
- Let me state that temptation in itself is not sin. Jesus was tempted yet was without sin because he never yielded – gave in – to temptation.
 - Hebrews 4: 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet he did not sin.
- God also gives us the grace not to yield to temptation.
 - 1 Corinthians 10: 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.
- Although Eve was the one tempted Adam was equally guilty as he was with her during the time of temptation.
 - He knew God’s instructions but also disobeyed them by taking of the fruit from Eve and eating it.
 - He could not blame Eve for his actions. He was responsible for his own actions.
- Consequences of yielding to temptation
 - Their eyes were opened
 - They saw themselves through their sinfulness rather than through the way God had made them.
 - This was where people’s emotional and psychological problems began.
 - People look around themselves and try to be someone that they aren’t
 - People feel inferior or superior to others.
 - Their eyes are no longer on God and how He views them but their perception of themselves and others is based on what they see and how the world sees them.
 - They realised that they were naked.
 - Shame was introduced into the human race.
 - Before they sinned they were naked and felt no shame. (Genesis 2: 25)

In order not to yield to temptation set your eyes on Jesus:

- Hebrews 12: 1 – 3 Therefore, 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, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.