

SOMETHING WENT WRONG, GENESIS 3

My Father's World #3

◆ **Intro:** Drama *Because God Loved*, by Demarquis Johnson. (Adam and Eve reflect on being cast out of Eden on account of God's love.)

◆ **1.** Let's start with the problem. It is not hard to see that **there is something wrong in the world**. Seemingly good people can do horrendous things. We want other people to follow laws, but we also want to break them when we feel like. A political spokesman proclaims "We have the strongest economy ever." while gas prices are more than double and baby formula has run out. People mad about crime rally to defund anyone set in place to deter crime! In every era, no matter the blessings, there are still things that are amazingly wrong. When I was young, hot dogs came in packages of 10, and buns came in packages of 8. Thankfully that was rectified.

◆ But mostly the world is not getting better. Evolutionary philosophy promised that the basic would always get better. The less would become more. Imperfections and limitations would gradually disappear as life ascends to greater complexity over long periods of time. As man began at the bottom of the cellular level, so he began at the moral level. All he really needs is development, more education, better environments and he will improve.

◆ But mostly we aren't evolving to something better, are we? People who survived the First World War thought that was as

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bad as things could get. Certainly we'd never do that again. But in the short span of 20 years it all repeated. ♦ Let me tell you what I learned about the Parthenon in Athens, completed 438 BC. Still standing in part 2.5 millennia later. The columns are 6.2' in diameter but 4cm wider at the middle and leaning slightly inward so that if they extended into the sky they'd actually meet at 1.5mi above the center of the Parthenon. Because of it's massive size these slight variations actually give the optical appearance of being straight. Incredibly, the Parthenon contains no straight lines and no right angles. I tell you this only to accent the degree of intelligence and ability people had 2438 years ago, that we barely understand today. We stand there like at the Great Pyramids and wonder how they did it. Mankind has always been brilliant. It's not like we have much on them other than the history of invention. We tend to think that we just keep getting better, and smarter. No.

♦ A. Genesis 3 is a direct contradiction to our confidence in inevitable improvement and our basic goodness. Genesis 3 tells us of a world where Man began at the top and devolved to the bottom. The problem what not his environment. He lived in the most pristine of conditions, a brand new, untarnished Earth! And the problem is not heredity. Adam and Eve couldn't blame their

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failure on their ancestors. They didn't have any. They were the first couple. They'd never experienced evil, and still...

◆B. Wherever you find something good, all it takes is a little twist and it can become something bad that injures us. Sin is tricky because it is a distortion of something good. It's happening in our text:

◆v1 It's just a little twist of perspective from what they get (you are free to eat of any tree 2:16), to what they don't get.

◆v3 The woman corrects the snake but adds a just a little of her own embellishment (we can't even touch it.)

◆v4 Now we have a mixture of truth and falsehood.

◆v6 It was food. That's good isn't it? It looked good. It promised wisdom. Isn't that good?

◆ And that's the nature of sin and evil. Something good according to God's created design, but from the wrong perspective, or in the wrong setting, or applied the wrong way.

◆Being in love is a good thing, but not when it's your neighbor's wife.

◆Disciplining your child is a good thing, but not done in anger.

◆Helping the poor is a good thing, but not when it encourages laziness and entitlement.

◆Having money is a blessing, but not when you stole it from someone else.

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- ◆ Having a new vehicle, or updating your cabinetry is a good thing, but not when you owe a lot of people money.
- ◆ What do you tell yourself is really a good thing, or only natural, not all that bad really? We can not ignore, or pass off issues contrary to God's directions merely because we can claim we see something good in it. Something is wrong. Guess what? God's presence is absolute holiness. That means any sin at all excludes us. That's what Adam & Eve leaving the Garden shows us.
- ◆ **2.** GK Chesterton once responded to a newspaper article asking people to answer "What's wrong with the world?" He sent in one simple sentence. "I am." **What's wrong is** the distortion of God's good which we call evil and it's **something on my inside.** Did you ever see someone react rather oddly and ask "Where did that come from?" Your friend bites your head off for knocking his hat to the ground. And he's a Christian! Ever see someone you thought was just the sweetest thing rear up like a mother bear over a simple *disagreement*? Where did that come from? Well, we're asking that question about evil;
- ◆ A. Where did evil come from? The quick answer is the human heart.

◆ *Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*

◆ *Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

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◆ People like to blame their bad choices on their environment or their family heritage. While those things can certainly contribute, the problem is deeper. The child/adult/person/I in the best of environments has just as much potential to chose evil as anyone else. It's in our nature.

◆ B. We need to look within but we tend to do exactly what Adam and Eve did; blame someone or something else; admit to nothing; explain it away. These don't solve anything. If you have a tense relationship with someone, sin is involved. Sin is what estranges people from each other. Sin by nature pushes apart. Look, Adam is estranged from the adamah (ground) which he is the caretaker of. Eve is estranged from Adam whom she was the equivalent match to. And her unique ability (to bear a child) becomes "labor", just like Adam's calling became "labor". God and man are estranged; Adam and Eve have to leave the Garden. Isaiah the prophet says, "*Yours sins are what separate you from God.*" (59:2) When things are breaking up you can be sure evil is involved somehow.

◆ C. Now what shall we do. Don't conceal, but reveal when you deal with sin. God's word repeatedly urges us to confess sin to God and to each other and healing will result.

◆ *Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

◆ God's word constantly tells us that confession will bring his forgiveness. Doesn't that sound like a really good option? Look,

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you can't hide from God anyway. It's not like you're keeping anything from the newspapers in heaven.

◆ *Psalms 94:8-11 Take heed, you senseless ones among the people; you fools, when will you become wise? Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see? ...The LORD knows the thoughts of man; he knows that they are futile.*

◆ Hebrews 4:12-13 [He] judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing 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.

◆ But you might say to yourself, "Myself, at least I can hide things from people. I can save face. I can blame everybody else." And you might be right. But you will never find harmony with those people. People aren't especially drawn to folks who think they're always right and can't say they're sorry. Politicians should consider this truth. But people naturally like humble people.

◆ God gave Adam the opportunity to confess, but he blamed instead. Look how that turned out. What would have happened if he said, "Yes I disobeyed you and ate the fruit. I wanted to make myself great instead of admitting that only You are great. I need your forgiveness as well as your help with this. I cannot be holy on my own."? Where in your world do you need to say something like that?

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◆ **3. I have a solution but it's outside of me.** Ever since Darwin western culture has had a giddy optimism about our future ability to evolve. Problem is there is no evidence of this. There is, however, plenty of evidence to the inevitable lingering of human evil. Russia is currently blowing up Ukrainian woman and children and homes and shops because they want someone else's land. That's happening today, in a time we chant for equality for people who think they are animals, and accuse people of "violence" for merely asserting that men don't have babies.

◆ Genesis 3 would like to put to death anyone's confidence that man has it in him to get better. *The sin problem is internal, and the sin solution is external.* Are you dissatisfied with anything about yourself? Start by looking outside yourself! The good news is ...

◆ A. ...There's someone already looking for you! In our text Adam and Eve are hiding after they realize their shame, something they didn't have in chapter 2 even though there were no such thing as clothes yet. But God comes looking! God comes calling. God asks about what they did, not because he doesn't know. He's helping them know. He doesn't show up in a fast cloud of chariot dust with armed angels and flashing lights. No hand cuffs. No weapons.

◆ Next time you hesitate to lean toward God because you've been told he'll smack you down, just remember Adam and

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Eve. God is not waiting, he's calling for you. Can you hear his voice right now?

◆ *Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT) Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

◆ B. ... God is planning for a better future. People read the curses in Genesis 3 and think this is God getting you back for your sins. Nothing could be further from the truth. The "curses" of Genesis 3 are not prescriptive of what God plans for them, but descriptive or the sad results they have brought on themselves. It's as though God is saying, "Now look what you have brought on yourselves and realize why I told you NO in the first place." Like a father whose son failed a breathalyzer test while driving saying, "Son, do you realize the ramifications of what you've done? Now you're going to lose your license. No one is going to be willing to insure you. If any do the premium will be astronomically high. You'll end up having to work overtime just to afford to drive at all."

◆ In Adam and Eve's case, it's not car insurance, but the tendency now of the 1) man to rule the wife, 2) the wife to likewise want to control the man. And again, these are consequences of the Fall into sin, not the way it was in chapter 2 where the man and woman were equal partners.

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◆ But in spite of what we bring on ourselves, God already has a solution in the works.

◆ 1) The barring of the Tree of Life is so that they won't live forever with an evil nature, which they now have. They need redemption from sin first. Then life forever. And perhaps the best possible world is in fact one that has fallen, been redeemed. Like a child who touched the stove, they will willingly never do that again.

◆ 2) He has drawn a battle line between Eve and the Serpent/Devil and determined to wipe evil out. (v15)

◆ Revelation 12:17 (NASB) So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

◆ God will allow Satan's progeny to hurt Eve's offspring, but her seed will crush him altogether. Of course we know this took place in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

◆ Romans 16:19-20 but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

◆ *1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

◆ **Conclusion:** So you see, the shadow of the cross was appearing on the horizon even as Adam and Eve left Eden. It

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would have been perfectly fair for God to tell the angels to kill them and start over. But God was not desperately thinking up Plan B. He already determined a way for fallen people to still become clean and in live with him again, through his Son Jesus, who died to carry your punishment for sin. Jesus is victory over sin.