

# IT STARTED OUT INNOCENTLY ENOUGH

## STORY BEGINS:

It started out innocently enough.

- They were the first couple and they had everything they could ever want.
  - Lived in a beautiful garden had a friendship with their creator.
  - The garden was filled with beautiful trees which produced delicious fruit
- After God had created them he had given them clear instructions of what he wanted them to do...

*<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.*

*<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth...”*

Genesis 1:27-28

- ...and what he wanted them not to do...

*<sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”*

Genesis 2:16-17

- So, they were to have children and take care of the garden and animals, fish and such.
- ...not eat of the tree in middle of garden – tree of the knowledge of good and evil  
If they did eat of it = die

Then the devil crashes into history like a cannon ball – **Genesis 3**

- Adam and Eve are going about their business doing what they were supposed to do and not doing what they weren't supposed to do.
  - **And Satan arrives**

*<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’”*

*<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. <sup>3</sup> But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’”*  
*<sup>4</sup> “No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*  
Genesis 3:1-7

- “Excuse me, how come you aren't eating from that tree? That's a great tree as a matter of fact it's probably got the best fruit of any tree in the garden.”
- “Well” says Eve “God told us not to eat from that tree because he said we would die if we did.” Satan replies, “Don't be silly that's not true!” “The only reason He won't let you eat from it is because it's the best fruit in the garden and he knows that if you eat from it you'll be just like him.”
- Eve took the fruit, took a big bite and said “This is delicious Adam, you should try it.” And he did. And those two bites signaled the end of the world as they knew it.
- Their innocence was shattered.
- With that bite their eyes were indeed open and they were overcome with shame and tried to cover their nakedness.
- Up to that point there had been no shame, no sense of right and wrong.

God has given us a book that tells us what he wants us to do as well as what he doesn't want us to do.

- Throughout the book you discover vrs like **Galatians 5:19-21**  
*<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- It's not like God has a whole list of unwritten rules that he is expecting us to follow listen to what Paul told Timothy...

*<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- And so regardless of what some want you to think there are things that are right and things that are wrong in this life.
  - Adam and Eve knew what they were doing was wrong!
    - In our lives how much of the wrong that we do is done in ignorance?
    - How often can we honestly say “I didn’t know that was wrong.”? “You mean I shouldn’t have cheated on my wife, stole from my employer and lied to my parents.”
    - “Who would have thought that was wrong?” Duh. You. We choose to do wrong.

God came looking for them and they hid

- Their fellowship with God had been crushed by their actions.
  - Up to this point Adam and Eve enjoyed being in the presence of God but not now!
  - That’s the reason they hid...

*<sup>9</sup> So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”*

*<sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”*

- Have you ever noticed that little children have no qualms about running around with nothing on? They seem to enjoy it. But there comes a time when their innocence disappears, and they feel compelled to cover up.
- Have you ever been ashamed to be in the presence of God because of disobedience in your life?
  - Perhaps it was during your efforts to pray, or during a worship service or maybe during communion.
  - They knew that what they did was wrong, and it caused a tear in their relationship.

- God confronts them...

*<sup>11</sup> Then he asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”*

*<sup>12</sup> The man replied, “The woman you gave to be with me— she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate.”*

Genesis 3:11-12

- They refused to accept responsibility for what they did
- They blamed someone else
  - Ever blame others for our behavior and the failures in our lives?
    - Seldom hear, “I sinned, it was my choice, I did it because I wanted to.”
  - The Devil will tempt us to do wrong but you don’t have to.

*<sup>13</sup> No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide a way out so that you may be able to bear it.*

1 Corinthians 10:13

- Adam and Eve could have called on God for help.
- If we stopped and prayed when we are being tempted things would probably go in a different direction.

### SO NOW WHAT?

*<sup>8</sup> If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:8-9

The first decision is to accept responsibility for the choices you have made and the choices you will make = accept responsibility to ourselves and before God.

- Each of us are where we are today because of choices we made somewhere along the line.
  - The decision to study in school or not try
  - The decision of who we will run with
  - The decision of who we would marry.

– Every addiction began with a choice, you may be thinking “I don’t have a choice, I have to do it.” But you made the choice at the beginning the choice to try whatever it is you are addicted to.

- God gave us the wonderful gift of our **free will** AND **WE TURNED AROUND AND USED IT AGAINST HIM!**

– He knew we could make the right choices!

### **TURN THAT AROUND!**

Acknowledge your sin!

Repent of your sin!

If not a Christian but your faith totally in Jesus and be baptized for the remission of your sin!

Take that wonderful gift of God to make choices and chose Him!

Make the right choice!