

Pastor Daniel Waldschmidt – Genesis 3:8-15 – June 10th, 2018

Our God is a God who makes promises. For example, God kept promising Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son. And even though Abraham was a hundred years old and Sarah was ninety years old God kept his promise and Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac. God made Abraham a promise and then he kept that promise. All throughout the Bible we can see that our God is a God who makes promises. Well, our lesson today is from the very beginning of the Bible, Genesis chapter 3. Adam and Eve have just fallen into sin. And in our lesson today God makes the First Gospel Promise. God promises to send Adam and Eve a Savior from sin. As we look today at this first gospel promise, we will see that God seeks out Adam and Eve in his grace, and then he promises a Savior who will defeat Satan.

First, God seeks out Adam and Eve in his grace. God had told Adam and Eve do not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die. But then Satan came and convinced Adam and Eve to disobey God and eat from the fruit. That's where our lesson today picks up. Adam and Eve have just eaten the fruit and then they hear God coming. Our lesson begins, **"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day" (Genesis 3:8)**. Adam and Eve have just done what God told them not to do and now they hear God coming. How do you think Adam and Eve are going to feel when they hear God coming? They felt afraid. It says, **"And they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the Garden" (Genesis 3:8)**. Adam and Eve were afraid when they heard God coming but what they didn't realize is that God was seeking them out in his grace. Listen to what God says, **"But the LORD God called to the man, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:9)** This is a Father looking for his children.

God wants Adam and Eve to confess their sin so that he can forgive them. He wanted them to say, "We ate the fruit! We're sorry." But instead of simply saying that, Adam first evades the real issue. Adam says, **"I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid" (Genesis 3:10)**. Adam says nothing about eating the fruit. He evades the real issue. But of course it's not going to work for Adam to evade the issue. God says, **"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" (Genesis 3:11)** Here God gives Adam another opportunity to simply confess his sin, to say, "I ate the fruit you told me not to eat. I'm so sorry!" But, sadly, instead of simply saying that he now tries to blame others for his sin. **"The man said, 'The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it'" (Genesis 3:12)**. Instead of simply confessing his sin, Adam blamed somebody else. And Eve also blamed somebody else: **"The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'" (Genesis 3:13)**. Do we ever do what Adam and Eve did? Instead of simply confessing our sins do we ever evade the real issue or blame others? Let's confess our sins to God, because God had a promise for Adam and Eve and he has a promise for us.

As we look at the first Gospel promise today, the first thing we looked at is that God sought out Adam and Eve in his grace. Now we will see that God promised to send Adam and Eve a Savior who would defeat Satan.

Satan had used a snake as his instrument to tempt Adam and Eve. And God does inflict a consequence on snakes as a reminder that Satan used a snake to tempt Adam and Eve to sin. Our passage says, **"So the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.'" (Genesis 3:15)** So there is a consequence for the snake. But of course, God is addressing more than a snake. He is addressing Satan who had taken possession of the snake. And in verse 15 God addresses Satan. God says

to Satan, **“And I will put enmity between you and the woman.”** The word “enmity” means “hostility.” By tempting Adam and Eve, Satan had put enmity between Eve and God. But God said that he is going to put the enmity back where it belongs, between Eve and Satan. Satan had in a sense won Adam and Eve over to his side. But here God says, “I’m going to put them back on my side.” How did God win Adam and Eve and us back over to his side? The Bible says that when we were God’s enemies Christ died for us. God won us back to his side by sending Christ to die for us.

God also told Satan that he would put enmity **“between your offspring and hers.”** God is saying that he is going to put enmity between Satan’s offspring and Eve’s offspring. Satan’s offspring are unbelievers, those who have not yet been won back over to God’s side by the gospel. This is why we need to share this promise so that through this promise more people may be won back over to God’s side.

Eve’s offspring are believers. And God promised that one of Eve’s offspring, one of Eve’s descendants, would defeat Satan. God said, **“He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.”** The one who would crush Satan’s head is Jesus Christ. The Bible says that **“The reason Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” (1 John 3:8)** Jesus crushed Satan’s head when he paid for the sin that Satan tempted Adam and Eve to commit. God said, **“He will crush your head and you, [Satan] will strike his heel.”** The devil struck Jesus’ heel when Jesus died on the cross, but it was by dying that Jesus forgave all our sins. And then Jesus rose again from the dead thus destroying death which Adam and Eve’s sin had brought into the world.

Here in the Garden of Eden God made the first gospel promise. He promised that one of Eve’s offspring, one of Eve’s descendants would undo what the devil had done. God says to Satan **“I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers, He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.” (Gen 3:15)** By saying that the Savior would be one of Eve’s offspring God was saying that Savior would be truly human. Jesus is true God and also true man. Jesus became a human like us to save us. In the Gospel for today, Jesus said, **“Who are my mother and my brothers?” The he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “He are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my mother and sister and brother.” (Mark 3:33-35)** Because of what your brother Jesus has done all your sins are forgiven and eternal life is yours through faith. That’s what God promised would happen way back in the Garden of Eden.

Our God is a God who makes promises. And what do you do with a promise? You believe a promise. Let’s believe God’s promise of a Savior from sin. God has already fulfilled that promise through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Let’s believe that promise and let’s share that promise. Amen.