

The Miseducation of Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:1-15

Two weeks ago we described "The Education of Adam" (Gen 2:1-17), as God taught Adam about his home, his job, and his test. Last week Eve entered the story, and today the serpent will. Today's sermon is therefore "The Miseducation of Adam and Eve" (Gen 3:1-15).

(1) Satan (the serpent)

- A *talking snake*? Satan probably used a serpent as a mouthpiece (Rev 12:9; cf. Num 22:30?).
- Satan's first words: "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" (3:1)
 - *'Is he starving you? This sounds exactly like something God would do. I'm not surprised.'* It implies that the serpent *knows* God and his track record.
 - The heart of evil: you can't trust God.
- Satan's second words: "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (3:4-5)
 - *'God wants to keep you down. To keep you in your place. He doesn't want you to grow, to be like him. He wants to keep you as his pet.'*

(2) Eve

- *Why did she eat?* "The serpent deceived me." (Gen 3:13; cf. 2 Cor 11:3, 1 Tim 2:14)
- *But how exactly was she deceived?* Three things tempted her, not one. (Gen 3:6)

(3) Adam

- "...she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." (Gen 3:6)
 - If Adam said or did something else, it wasn't important enough to note. Passive.
- Adam was *not* deceived (1 Tim 2:14). If he wasn't tricked, what other option is there?
 - It was a deliberate choice to disobey God. Not good, Adam.
- Immediate death? Spiritually, yes.
 - Shame is the first indicator of this (Gen 2:25, 3:7), as well as hiding (3:8).
 - Adam implicitly blames God in Genesis 3:10 and 3:12, as well as Eve. Adam takes no responsibility, and acts as though he had no agency.

The First Proclamation of the Gospel (*proto-evangelium* in Gen 3:15)

- A declaration of war: the woman's offspring will battle Satan, receiving an injury in the process (heel), but delivering a fatal blow (head). All fulfilled in Jesus' death, resurrection, and second coming!

Questions for Application and Further Reflection:

1. Read Gen 3:1-15. Reflect on deception in your own life. When have you been deceived? By whom and how? When did you realize it? How can you avoid it?
2. Reflect on temptation. Jesus' words on this topic are strong, read Matthew 18:5-9. How can you apply them?
3. Compare Gen 3:15 with Romans 16:20. Also consider Luke 10:17-19, Rev. 12:11. Note who participates in the victory and how.