

Why Evangelise? Because sin entered the world (Genesis 3:1-24 & Romans 5:12)

27-Oct-2024

Genesis 3:1-24

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 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.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ 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, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so, I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ And 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.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³ So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Romans 5:12

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned

Sermon: “Why Evangelise? Because sin entered the world”

Please have your Bibles opened up at **Genesis chapter 3** – starting at verse 1.

There is an outline if you would like to take some notes!

Let me **pray** first...

Intro

This morning, we are beginning a **new series** on evangelism.

So, we better define evangelism.

[Slide- Evangelism Definition]

Evangelism is simply **telling people** the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

But **what** does Gospel mean?

[Slide-Gospel Definition]

The **Greek** word for Gospel is *eu-angelion* which literally means **Good Message** or **Good News**!

But what is this **Good News**?

[Slide-Good News]

The **Good News** is simply that **God sent His Son, Jesus**, to this **Earth** on a **rescue mission** to **fix the broken relationship** between **human beings** and **God**.

The **relationship** was **broken by** sin.

So, we'd better define sin

[Slide – Definition Sin]

Sin is when we **break any of God's rules** – and in doing so - sin breaks our relationship with God and separates us from God - and it's like something inside us dies – we call this **spiritual death**.

[Slide-Good News]

But the **Good News** is - that - God allowed Jesus to die on a cruel cross so all who believe in Jesus can have their **sins forgiven** - and Jesus then rose from the dead - so that all who believe in Him can have **eternal life in Heaven**.

So, if the **Gospel is Good News**

It **implies** there must be **Bad News**

That's where our Old Testament bible passage this morning from Genesis 3:1-24 comes in.

But before we look at this Bad News

We need to **understand** the context

Context

[Slide-Context]

In Genesis chapter 1 - God spoke and created everything in seven days.

At the end of sixth day God declared his creation - very good - perfect in fact.

The pinnacle of His creation is human beings who are told to be fruitful and populate the earth and take care of God's creation.

Then in Genesis chapter 2 – verses 15-17 God gave the first human being He made – Adam – **one simple rule**

[Slide-Rule]

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 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.”

Why would God give such a rule?

Well - the presence of this tree of knowledge of good and evil – in the middle of the Garden — is **the presence of a choice for Adam.**

God did not make Adam a robot

God kindly made Adam to be a creature of free will.

Adam had a choice.

God gave Adam the opportunity to choose to obey God or choose to rebel against God. If there is never a command or never something forbidden then there can never be a choice.

God also gave us a free will and the freedom to choose.

God wants our love and obedience to Him to be the love and obedience of choice.

As a parent – I want my children to love me – because they choose to love me – not because I tell them they must love me!

What sort of love would it be – if my children just told me they loved me just to shut me up or because I bullied them into saying it!

It's the same, with God, he wants our love for Him to be heartfelt and genuine.

And if we love God properly, we will want to obey Him and please Him.

Back to the rule.

It's a simple rule – there's plenty of other trees to eat from in the Garden.

[Slide-what could go wrong?]

What could possibly go wrong?

That's the bad news

Sin entered the world

And that's where our Old Testament [OT] passage comes in

[\[Please turn to Genesis 3:1-24\]](#)

And we see that **sin entered the world**

[Slide-sin entered the world]

A crafty serpent (and we know from Revelation 12:9 and 20:2 that the serpent is the devil or Satan) deceived the woman by **trickery**: saying in verse 1 “*Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from ANY tree in the garden?’*” – God didn't say any tree – just one tree!

and then verse 4 the serpent (devil) **deliberately lies** - “*You will not certainly die*”

and then verse 5 the serpent (devil) offers the woman something **believable** “*God knows when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God...*”.

There’s **some truth** in the serpent’s statement ‘you will be like God’ – but no human being can be fully like God!

Application

The devil works the same way in our lives.

Sometimes the devil **sows seeds of doubt** – so **we doubt God**.

Sometimes the devil **blatantly lies**

And sometimes the devil **feeds us with false logic** - like ‘*God will understand*’ or ‘*everyone else does it, it’s no big deal*’ or ‘*it’s only a little sin, it’s not that serious*’ or ‘*you can control this sin so that there are no consequences, no one will find out* [but God knows!]’ or ‘*what I’m doing wrong, doesn’t affect anyone else*’ or ‘*it’s different for me, my circumstances are not the same*’

Unfortunately, the woman was tricked by the serpent (aka the devil)

The temptation to eat fruit – that is good for food – pleasing to the eye – and can give wisdom – it’s just too much for the woman to resist!

And she’s so convinced it’s the right thing to do, she gave her husband some of this forbidden fruit too!

It’s a disaster!

And God knows what they’ve done – and when God confronted them about breaking his rule.

The blame game starts

Adam blamed the woman for giving him the fruit – and Adam also blamed God because God gave him the woman as a helper!

Eve blamed the serpent (devil) for deceiving her

And the serpent subtly blamed God for giving them this rule so that they can't be like God.

See how crafty the devil is?

Application

Unfortunately, we inherit two problems from Adam's sin

[Slide-Romans 5:12]

And our NT reading from Romans 5:12 tells us what they are:

... sin entered the world through one man, [Adam] and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned—

The bottom line is - **we inherit sin and death** from Adam...

[Slide-Romans 6:23]

Romans 6:23 says a similar thing – *the wages of sin is death* –

When we have a job – we get paid what we deserve for the hours worked (weekly, fortnightly or monthly)

In the same way – if our job was sinning every day – when we open our pay slip at the end of the week, fortnight or month – the Apostle Paul is saying - we get paid what we deserve for sinning – that’s death! Physical death and spiritual death! None of us want that pay slip – containing death – do we?

Application

Back to the story of the serpent and Adam and Eve.

Who are we like in the story?

[Slide-who are we like?]

Are we like the serpent – and we tempt others to sin?

Or are we like Adam – and we stand by and let others sin – and don’t stop them?

Remember - bad things happen when good people do nothing?

Or are we like Eve – and we fall for the devil’s tricks

The Apostle Peter warns us in 1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Are we like Eve – where - we either ignore God’s rule – or we don’t follow God’s rules exactly – or we get God’s rules mixed up a bit (Eve didn’t seem to have a full understanding of God’s rule – either Adam didn’t explain it right or Eve wasn’t

listening) - or are we just plain ignorant of God's rule - and we convince others to go down the same wrong path too.

(pause)

And when we sin? Do we play the blame game like Adam and Eve did?

Do we blame God for putting us in this situation or for making us the way we are – and blame God that He won't help us change?

Or do we blame our husband or wife or a family member – it was their idea – or they didn't stop us – or they weren't there at the time – or they should have done something about it, so we didn't sin?

Or maybe, we blame the devil – he tempted me – or he made me, do it?

(pause)

Now there are also **consequences** for sin

[Slide-consequences]

In the story

The consequences for the serpent...

The serpent (v14) is cursed above all animals and must crawl on its belly (which implies it had legs) and must eat dust

The serpent (the devil) will be in constant hostility with the woman and the woman's descendants (v15) – a picture of the spiritual battle that goes on even today – between good and evil!

The consequences for the woman...

She will have pain in child birth [Call the Midwife] and there will be tension in the relationship with her husband (v16)

The consequences for the man

The ground is cursed – it will be hard for the man to make a living and put food on the table. He will have to work very hard all the time! Ask a farmer or anyone who tries to grow anything – it's a nightmare.

Adam and Eve were also removed from the Garden – so that they can't eat from the tree of life and live forever. God did this because if they ate from the tree of life – they would live forever in their sinful state – and also God does not reward sin!

Application

For us – whatever sin we commit – there will be consequences – stealing a pen from work – might have little or no consequences – but stealing thousands of dollars from the company we work for – will cost us our job – and may lead to prison – losing our family – and losing our home!

Sin always has consequences!

Our Response

What should our **response** to our sin be – this morning?

[Slide-Repent – 1 John 1:9]

When we've sinned – the first place to look – is in the mirror – and have a good long look at ourselves – give ourselves an uppercut – and then **repent** of our sin.

Repent means doing a U-turn

Our lives have been heading away from God and doing our own thing.

Then we realize we are wrong and we've broken God's rules – and we say sorry to God – and then do a U-turn and start heading God's way, instead of our own way.

Then we confess our sins and believe that Jesus can and will forgive our sins.

The Apostle John puts it this way in 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, God/Jesus is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let's pause for a moment now – and confess our sins to God - privately in prayer...

(pause)

We began by saying that evangelism is basically telling people the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus.

[Slide-Gift – Romans 6:23]

When I read Romans 6:23 earlier and said – *the wages of sin is death* – there's more in that verse – the full verse says...

*The wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Apostle Paul is saying – Yes – our work of sin deserves a pay slip with death in it – but – there is a BIG BUT in the same verse –

Paul says – BUT - there is a **gift** from God of eternal life in Heaven for those who believe in Jesus' death for forgiveness of their sins and believe in Jesus' resurrection.

Notice – God gives Jesus as a gift – it’s not something we earn – we can’t earn or work our way to Heaven – only faith in Jesus can get us there!

Like any gift we receive – we have to open it – to receive it.

Maybe you’re someone here this morning – who hasn’t opened the gift of Jesus yet – today is a good day to do so – and I’m happy to talk to you after the service privately.

(pause)

We are approaching Christmas.

Most people celebrate Christmas – even non-Christians

And most people are in to receiving gifts and presents at Christmas – so it’s easy for us to mention this free gift of Jesus – that we have. And then invite people to also have receive this free gift of Jesus.

We can simply invite them to our Christmas Carols service or Christmas Day service – and let God do the rest.

Remember - evangelism is sharing the Good News or Good Message of Jesus.

We are messengers only – we are like the Australia Post Postie on his motorbike – we simply deliver the message of Jesus – the Postie doesn’t get off his bike and open the letters and parcels with the people in their house – he just simply delivers the letters and parcels.

It’s up to the people the Postie delivers to, to open their own letters and parcels – and in the same way, it’s up to the people we deliver the Good News of Jesus to - to open the free gift of Jesus themselves?

They have a choice – just like we did – just like Adam and Eve did.

Let's pray...

Heavenly Father,

We acknowledge that we fall short of your glorious and perfect standards and that we have sinned and rebelled against you.

We thank you that you have given us the Gospel Good News that Jesus is the answer to the problems of sin and death.

We thank you that you have given us this precious gift of eternal life in and through our Lord Jesus. Help us to open this gift for ourselves and to share this gift with others. In Jesus Name, Amen.