

Subject: *Lessons from the First Family*

Scripture: *Genesis 2:15-25*

As we count our many blessings this Thanksgiving season, I think we would agree that the greatest blessings next to our salvation are our church family and our own earthly family. Today I want to preach a message on the home.

A pastor wanted to impress the couple with the serious nature of marriage and so he began the wedding ceremony like this: “Marriage is a blessing to some, a burden to others, and a challenge to all. Knowing this, do you venture?”

We should always think of marriage as something sacred and special, never common or ordinary. God speaks of Israel as His beloved spouse. The church is called the bride of Christ. In heaven we will partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Marriage is meant to be a blessing, not a burden. Yet we know that many marriages are struggling and some are failing. One thing is for sure—all homes are under attack. For that reason we need to see God’s design for the family and get His help in these difficult days.

CREATION OF THE FIRST FAMILY

- Adam’s work (vs. 15)
- Adam’s warning (vs. 16-17)
- Adam’s wife (vs. 18-25)

In this lovely passage we see God’s provision of a wife, His presentation of a wife for Adam, the pattern God gave for all marriages, and the perfection the first couple enjoyed.

CORRUPTION OF THE FIRST FAMILY

God gave Adam the command about the forbidden tree before Eve was created (2:16-17), so he was responsible for teaching his wife what God said and warning her about eating the forbidden fruit.

- Doubt (3:1) – The serpent (Satan) wanted Eve to doubt whether God’s words were accurate and reliable. Satan also wanted Eve to doubt God’s goodness. Was He holding out on her?
- Denial (3:4) – Satan flatly contradicted what God said.
- Deception (3:5) – Eating this fruit won’t be a step down, but a step up. You will be like God. Satan knows how attractive that temptation is because that’s exactly what he thought before he sinned and God cast Him out of heaven.

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

- Defiance (3:6) – Eve saw, took, and ate the fruit. She gave some to Adam and he ate, too, all in direct rebellion to God’s clear command not to eat.

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FIRST FAMILY

We are free to choose, but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choice.

- Immediate consequences – shame, fear (hiding from God), blame, sorrow, strife, and separation
- Ultimate consequences – death (spiritual and physical) and depravity (Cain and Abel)

COMPASSION FOR THE FIRST FAMILY

In spite of Adam and Eve’s sin and its consequences, God showed them grace.

- God promised a future Redeemer

Genesis 3:15 is sometimes called the “Proto-evangelium” or “First Gospel.” It is a prophecy of what would eventually happen in God’s unfolding plan of redemption. The seed of the woman refers to Jesus, who was born of the Virgin Mary. The seed of the serpent refers to Satan. The outcome describes the bruising of the Redeemer’s heel and the crushing of the devil’s head. Christ will eventually defeat Satan and we will share in that victory.

- God provided a coat of skins

God killed innocent animals, took the skins of those animals, and covered Adam and Eve. The fig leaves were not enough. They needed to cover their shame. This is a picture of what God does in salvation. Jesus was innocent but He died in our place and for our sins. He provides a covering of His perfect righteousness to cover our sin and shame.

***Isaiah 61:10** I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

APPLYING THESE LESSONS TO YOUR LIFE:

1. Are you thankful for God’s good gift of marriage?
2. Do you respect and follow God’s commands for your life and family?
3. Do you think about the serious consequences of sin?
4. Have you received God’s provision of salvation in Christ?
5. How do you need God to bless, protect, and strengthen your family right now?