



As we continue to answer the question “What Went Wrong?” we must deal with a certain someone who enters the story in Genesis 3. Here, we see the first instance of Satan twisting God’s words to confuse and mislead humans, and he hasn’t stopped since. Let’s take a look at the method in which Satan twists the truth, how it might compare to what he does in our lives today, and how God continues to show up in spite of our sin.

Read: Genesis 3

What are some of the truths about God that Satan causes the woman to doubt in v.4?

We see in v.6 that the woman mistakes wisdom for knowledge, power, and control. Can you think of a time in your life where you were convinced something would be good, but it turned out to have very negative consequences?

In v.7, what is the very first emotion the man and woman experience after eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

How did this new feeling affect their normal routines and patterns of relationship with God in the next few verses?

How did it change their focus, even though they were still in the same beauty of the garden?

Having full knowledge of what had happened, God, in his kindness, still offers them the opportunity to confess what they had done, an opportunity to take steps to repair their broken relationship. And yet, the man and woman, in their shame, both deflect responsibility. Maybe you have experienced this- maybe as a kid you did something wrong, but when caught, tried to maintain innocence and place blame on someone else. And parents have to decide what to do when they catch their child doing something against the rules.

How might God have felt during the interaction with the man and woman in v.8-13?

Through the remainder of the chapter, we see the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin, and God's kindness in the midst of their consequences.

At first glance, God blocking the way to the tree of life appears to be part of the punishment, but upon closer inspection, how might this action have been representative of God's kindness?

Make it personal:

What lies have you believed in your life that you now see was Satan twisting your perception of God's perfect provision?

How has shame created distance between you and your Creator?

What would it be like to answer God honestly when he asks:

-Where are you?

-Who told you that?

-What is it that you have done?

When we imagine a untrustworthy person asking these questions, they can seem accusatory and harsh. But coming from the lips of a loving and trustworthy God, they are actually questions that can help lead us to transformation.

As our prayer this week, let us all confess the answers to these questions to our Heavenly Father who desires true relationship with us. Say: *“Father, right now, I am... (lonely, scared, tired, frustrated, feeling far from you, feeling hopeless, feeling excited, feeling confident...just tell Him where you are right now). I know I am believing lies that have been told to me- the lies I have been believing about myself are... (simply tell Him the lies that have been directing your life and your decisions). I know that I have done wrong in your sight. I have... (confess your sins to God, who is faithful to forgive them.) Jesus, thank you for dying for my sins so that I can be made whole. Holy Spirit, I want to see Your fruit in my life grow more and more. I want to stand in Your power against the attacks of the enemy. I depend on You. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.”*

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