

Genesis 3 SERMON

What voices are you listening to?

Presentation

Good morning. My name is Roberto Vivanco, I'm the Worship Pastor here at EFC, and one of the Elders of the church. It's a great joy for me to be here and share the message from the word of God.

I've said it before, and I will say it again, please forgive my English. I might not say everything the way it's supposed to be said because I learned English with the cable tv. I'm from Quito, I am more Quiteno than the CHOCLO MOTE!
I'm married to Cameron Graham Vivanco, we've been married for 15 happy years!
We have 3 children, Graham, Liam and Francis.

Now generally I preach once or twice a year, so if you have a question after this, come see me in a year, ok?

We love this church and are blessed to be a part of this community.

RECAP

Bible verse

Gen 3:1-24

Last week Pastor Jeremy guided us through the same passages and we learned about the

TEMPTATION

TRANSGRESSION

TRAGEDY

That happened in the garden, and today I want to emphasize some of those points but also recognize the

TRIUMPH

I'm going to ask you questions that I hope will bring you to recognize what God is doing in you and to remind you of His love for you.

I'm not going to tell you what to do, because that is your job, to strengthen your relationship with the Lord.

WHAT VOICES ARE YOU LISTENING?

PROMISES

Gen 3:1-24

1 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.'"

She added this part, the part about not even touching the tree, as she didn't understand the order from God. Adam didn't explain correctly about this. So it makes sense that the serpent goes to her, because it knows that she can be convinced because of her incomplete understanding.

The serpent was not ugly, how is it that he and Eve had a conversation? Eve never was discussed by it, she was never afraid of the serpent, and she listened to it.

Eve was tempted by the serpent. Brothers and sisters, let's talk about temptation for a moment. Temptation is the most attractive and easy thing. It calls our attention, it gives us ideas that maybe nobody else knows about. It brings out thoughts that we didn't know were there. We are surrounded by it, but...

1 Corintios 10:13 — The New International Version (NIV)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And **God is faithful**; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Every moment of resistance to temptation is a victory.

[Frederick William Faber](#)

Now let's go back to the passage...DID GOD REALLY SAY?

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.

Last week Pastor Jeremy taught us about the redemption that came from TAKE AND EAT, because Jesus redeemed us through his body and blood, through his sacrifice.

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,

I can imagine that this is one of those routines that made Adam and Eve very happy, walking in the cool of the day with God. The creator of the Universe took time to be with them. He walked with them. Their father was so close that they enjoyed a walk around paradise; being with him was paradise! Feeling loved, feeling complete, safe, secure, what a wonderful experience to take a walk with God. But now things had changed.

...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.”

Where are you? There are two words for “where” in Hebrew. This is one of those times in scripture, that because we are not native Hebrew speakers we can lose some of the meaning if we don’t pay close attention to the words used. One of the words for where is, for example if we say “Where are my keys”, as in I have no idea where they are. The other is “I put my keys right here, and now they are not here. Where are they?” They are not misplaced, they are just not where they are supposed to be.

This second “where” is what God uses when he asks Adam and Eve, where are you? It is not that God doesn’t know their location, rather He is asking, “Why are you not where you are supposed to be?”

This is our time, this is our thing, this is what we do! This is where you are supposed to be, with ME! Walking by my side every day! I love you. Why are you not with me!? Where are you?

And something that we should find comfort in, is that God knew what Adam and Eve had done even before He came looking for them. He knew, he is God. Yet He still called out to them, he gave them the opportunity to admit their sin, to come to him, to be with him, to be in relationship. He still desired relationship with them.

Does this sound familiar to us? God is calling us to confess our sins, is calling us to have a relationship with Him, to turn from our bad decisions, our bad actions, our wrong-doing, and be in relationship with him. Does this sound familiar?

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is **faithful** and **just** and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

“Where are you?”, asks God.

I wonder where you are today.

WHAT VOICES ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

Have you ever done confession with a priest?

Growing up Roman Catholic in Ecuador there are some things that you have to do because culture and society requires it.

Again, growing up Catholic one of those things was first communion and confirmation and in the middle you have to do your confession of sins.

I remember being in catechism at age 11 and having to do confession with a priest. There were probably 60 of us that were waiting or making a line to go one by one to the priest and confess, we were looking at each other thinking I bet this one is a sinner, look at his face, (con esa cara este se demora un monton).

I didn't know what this was, it looked like you entered this little booth and magic happened, suddenly everything was going to be in a different level. But it wasn't. I didn't feel like telling the truth! He asked me have you sinned? And I said No!

Not that I didn't have sin in my life, I probably wasn't being honest with my mom, I know that I had done a bunch of things that it would have been good to get rid of, to confess,

but I didn't know this God. I didn't know that he is faithful, just, and that he could purify me!

Adam and Eve knew God, they had walked with Him every day in the cool of the day, and when it was time to confess their sin they made excuses!

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?"

What an interesting question: "Who told you you were naked?". God made them naked. They were fine naked. But through their bad decisions, their eyes were opened, and with that came shame. Now they were embarrassed of how God made them. Sin, and shame is part of sin, had come into the world.

I have an image here, imagine this:

Your kid is at the playground and comes to you and says, I'm not playing anymore. You ask why? Because apparently I'm stupid!

Your reaction would be (rolling your sleeves), "What? No you are not. Who told you you are stupid?"

Who told you?" As you look around for the kid so you could go set him straight.

I can see a God that is in protecting mode, a father that will take care of the problem and will surround their loved ones to keep them safe.

They were naked the whole time, I created you naked, why is all the sudden being naked a bad thing. You were naked before.

Why have you become ashamed of how I created you.

So are we ashamed of how God created us?

Are we always trying to be someone else?

Are we always comparing ourselves and our lives with other people?

What are the voices that we are listening to?

Who told you you are not enough?

Who told you you are not worthy?

Who told you you are not capable?

Who told you you'll never make it?

Who told you you are stupid?

What are the voices that you are listening to?

The devil is a liar!

John 10: 10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

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.”

RELATIONSHIPS ARE BROKEN

With God

With yourself

With each other

With all of creation

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.

When the serpent was cursed, its form changed. It now crawls, and eats dust, which represents defeat!

God is telling us that when He spoke to the serpent, he declared the defeat of the devil, because One will come to restore everything.

Imagine the scene when there is a big battle between good and evil. Evil gets hit and falls to the ground. As he hits the ground, his face lifts the dust, he is done. It's over. God is declaring victory over the devil.

THE PROMISE

GEN 3:15

And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring[a] and hers;
he will crush[b] your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

3. This promise of an offspring who will rescue humanity is a promise to mankind that God has not abandoned us.

Have we felt like God has abandoned us during this covid time?

There were some very scary times but he was always there!

Now here is a moment of foreshadowing. Do you see that verse 15 says there is enmity between the serpent's offspring and **her's**. Not theirs, but her's and her's alone. Adam, the human man, is not in this picture. Just Eve.

This is the first moment that God declares that the savior, the Messiah will come through a Woman, and a man will not have part of it. A virgin birth.

Because salvation comes from God. Remember Mary found favor from God and the Holy Spirit came upon her to Incarnate Jesus, no man had part in it. God keeps His promise here that he gave all the way back in the garden of Eden.

When God cursed the serpent, He also made a promise of deliverance from his evil: though there will be long-term war between evil and good, one day there will come a Rescuer who will finally destroy Satan.

LUKE 1:30

30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne

of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

In a few weeks we will celebrate Christmas which reminds us about the promised Messiah that came to save us all.

Romans 3:23-24

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. "

Philippians 2:6-11

6

Who, being in very nature[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7

rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

8

And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

9

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

10

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The devil was trying to destroy what God had created, trying to create chaos, but when God takes care of things he Says, Who told you! I got this, I'll take care of it.

1 Corinthians 15: 55-56

55

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”[i]

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

GENESIS 3

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.”

Story of my first born child.

When my wife and I were expecting our first baby, it was a joy. We had been married for six years and now it was time. We were going to have a child! The night before Graham was born, my wife's water had broken, so we knew it was time to go to the hospital. And there were some mysteries involved.

If you are a father you know that what she is experiencing is unknown to you. As we started to drive toward the hospital she said, “Take a left, take me to the Mc Donalds drive through, I want 3 cheeseburgers.”

I asked, “Are you sure honey?”

“Um yes, 3 cheeseburgers!”

I knew it was for real.

The baby wasn't born immediately at the hospital, it took a while, and I was thinking, this is not that bad, she is in pain but wow, she is strong! She's got this!

And then, that is when the sounds started. It was a grown, it was a growl, it was a roar, it was like nothing I had ever heard.

With every breath it got louder and louder. And the pain was real.

Now...

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.”

Adam listen to the voice of Eve, and not to God's voice.
Again, I ask you WHAT VOICES ARE YOU LISTENING?

Luke 9:35

35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have
chosen; listen to him.”

John 10:27

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

4. In verse 21 God provides clothing to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness (and shame).
They had tried to do so with fig leaves, but it was insufficient. They needed God to cover
their nakedness. This points to the fact that we can't fix ourselves or cover over our
problems by ourselves.

The leaves are the human justifications. In reality those justifications don't help us,
rather they separate us from God.

If only I had a better childhood!
If only I had a better family!
If only I had a better husband or wife!
If only, if only!

God clothed them with garments of skin, he sacrificed animals so that they would be
protected, comforted, and as hard as it sounds, he got them out of the garden because
if they would have eaten from the tree of life they would have stayed fallen for eternity.

It was a gift from God that He cast Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden. It would not be good for them to live forever in a fallen world of sickness, brokenness, pain, and suffering.

I can imagine the hard moment that is for a father to have to say to a kid GO AWAY! I pray that nobody has to go through that. But God did it here, because his first creation needed it, to experience this in order for humanity to be redeemed through Jesus.

That is the same Jesus that we will remember his birth in a few weeks, the same Jesus that did miracles, that fulfilled the prophets, and the only one whose heel the snake will strike." But Jesus will crush[b] its head.

We have Hope in Jesus, and his love covers us.
YOU ARE WORTHY!

A few weeks ago I was taking my son Graham to school, and while we were driving he noticed my sunglasses hanging in the visor by the passenger seat. He started to play with them. He put them on, and said, "I look so cool!" And I said, " Yes, you do." We laughed; it was a good time in the car. Just as we were pulling up to school, he asked me, "Can I take these sunglasses to school?" and I said. "Ok, but keep them in your backpack."

When we got to school, I said, " I love you Graham, have a great day!" And off he went. In the afternoon when it was time to pick him up I thought I'm really enjoying these little moments that I have with my son so I'm going to surprise him. I went to the bread store and got a TRENZA DE DULCE!! If you don't know what that is You are missing out!! It's a big piece of bread that looks like a BRAID. It has sugar on the top. It's delicious, and in my house we love it.

So I got it and went to pick him up. When he got in the car I was excited to see him, and asked him how his day was. Finally he looked at me from the back of the car, like "You are different what is going on?" So I picked up the bag with bread and showed it to him and said !THIS IS WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!! He saw the bread and his first words were. I'M NOT WORTHY!!

I was a little shocked at first and said, "Why not?" He answered, "I lost your sunglasses ! I don't know where they are!!"

He confessed to his Father.

I looked at him, gave him a hug and said YOU ARE SO WORTHY!!! You are loved!
Always !

You are worthy!!!! He has clothed you with His love and makes you worthy!

Why do I tell you this story?

As I have been praying and researching for the sermon this morning I am amazed, but not surprised how God keeps teaching us the same lessons. Lessons in real life, the same lessons as He teaches in Holy Scripture, He keeps driving home in real life. The question is, when we mess-up, when we sin, like Graham losing the sunglasses, like Adam and Eve eating the fruit in the garden. Do we turn from our sin and shame and turn towards God, do we confess and realize that we really are not worthy, but let God give us his worthiness. Or do we hide in our shame? Do we run away, and stay in the shame of our sin. Either way, there are consequences (Adam and Eve losing their home in the garden of Eden, and well, now I don't have any sunglasses), but what voice are we going to listen to? The voice that is faithful and just, and meets us in our sin and then redeems us through Jesus, or the voice of shame and accusation?

LETS ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS!

Because He is

FAITHFULL

JUST

And he will purify us

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.