

Lesson 10—Adam and Eve Disobeyed God

The portion of the Bible we're going to study today relates one of the most critical events in all history. We need to understand the background of what took place; that's why we took time last week to do a review of lessons 1-8.

Now we're going to do another brief review which will lead us into today's lesson:

1. Where did God place Adam after He created him? **In a beautiful garden called Eden which God Himself prepared for Adam.**
2. What two very important trees did God also place in the garden of Eden? **The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**
3. God told Adam that he must not eat of the fruit of which tree? **The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**
4. What did God say would happen to man if he disobeyed and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? **God said that man would die.**
5. What did God mean when He said that man would die? **He would die spiritually, and be separated from God for all eternity. He would no longer have a relationship with God.**
6. Whom did God create for Adam after He placed Adam in the garden of Eden? **God created Eve to be Adam's wife.**
7. Why did God create Eve? **Because there was no animal that was a suitable companion for Adam and because God loved him, He did not want Adam to be alone. God wanted man to have children.**

A. Introduction

I'm sure you've experienced a power outage where your computer, television, everything electrical goes out, and if it's night time, you're sitting there in the dark. That's what happens when you're cut off from the power source and have no electricity to run all your stuff.

In 2009, we had an ice storm where I live and how of the electricity throughout our city was out, and the entire city was dark—no neon signs, no street lights, nothing. Total darkness, except candles and oil lamps. Initially, I thought—no big deal—we'll survive and electricity will come back in a few hours....and then we went into days without electricity. Our house was freezing and we slept in our bedroom while the temperature was 45-degrees. If you didn't have a flashlight, you or candles, you were in total darkness. After about 8 days, we finally got power back on and what a welcome relief, but there were still homes in our surrounding area that went for another 2-3 weeks with no electricity!!

Well, today, we're going to see what Adam and Eve did to be cut off from their power source, namely God Himself. It's not a pretty sight. You don't want to take God for granted and that's what Adam and Eve did, and they suffered serious consequences, as we'll see in today's lesson.

B. Life in the Garden of Eden

Life in the garden was pleasant for Adam and Eve; everything was perfect. They had everything that they needed.

God was their friend; He loved them, and they were very happy.
They were open, transparent and vulnerable. They had nothing to hide.
They had no fear or worries.
God had put Adam in the charge over all of His beautiful creation.

Since there was no disease or sickness or pests or weeds or thorns, Adam's job was pleasant. He only needed to go to God for direction, and God would tell him exactly what was best to do.

- God had given Adam and Eve a variety of plants and fruits and vegetables to eat.
- Financial worries were unknown because finances were unknown—everything they needed was already provided!
- Adam and Eve were able to communicate with God and with each other.

Since they had not sinned, there was no hindrance to their communication with God or with each other. They didn't argue or hurt each other with words. They had a perfect friendship as well as fellowship with God and with each other.

But what about God's great enemy, Satan?

- Satan knew about God's warning to Adam concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Because Satan hates God, he wanted to destroy the man and woman that God had made.
- Therefore, Satan planned to deceive Eve.

C. Satan used the serpent to disguise himself and deceive Eve.

Theme: Satan fights against God and His will.

Satan is a liar and a deceiver. He hates man.

Genesis 3:1 (GW)

¹ The snake was more clever than all the wild animals the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must never eat the fruit of any tree in the garden'?"

- Now, this wasn't just a snake talking to Eve. No way.
- Satan himself had entered into the snake.
- He disguised himself as a snake so he could deceive Eve.
- The serpent was more clever than any other animal which God had made.

Satan is a deceiver.

He didn't allow Eve to know that he was the one talking through the snake.

The more you learn from God's Word, the more you realize how deceitful and wicked Satan is.

He knows that he is lying. He's quite good at it because he successfully gets us to believe his lies.

John 8:44 says that Satan is a liar and a murderer.

Here in **John 8:43-44**- Jesus is speaking outside the Temple in Jerusalem where a crowd had gathered to hear him:

43 Why don't you understand the language I use? Is it because you can't understand the words I use?

44 You come from your father, the devil, and you desire to do what your father wants you to do. The devil was a murderer from the beginning. He has never been truthful. He doesn't know what the truth is. Whenever he tells a lie, he's doing what comes naturally to him. He's a liar and the father of lies.

Satan's name means "deceiver" or "accuser." That's exactly what he tries to do.

- He tries to make what is good appear useless or evil.
- He tries to make what is evil appear good.
- He tries to infer that God is lying, but he knows only too well that what God says is absolutely true.

Paul gives us insight into Satan in 2 Corinthians 11:14 (GW) He writes:

14 And no wonder, even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

This is what Satan did to Eve: he deceived her by coming to her in the form of a snake. Up until that time, the animals had not been harmful in any way to Adam and Eve or to each other, so Eve was not afraid.

D. Satan still deceives people.

Satan's motives and his deceitful tactics haven't changed; he's still trying to deceive and destroy people. He doesn't use a serpent like he did with Eve, but he uses whatever means and tactics people will accept.

Many times Satan deceives people by speaking lies right into their minds.

When Satan comes to speak to people, he doesn't let them know that he is the one who is speaking to them. They think that the thoughts in their minds are their own. But it is really Satan who is putting the thoughts into their minds.

Eugene Peterson says that one of Satan's most subtle forms of attack today is the subversion of the Word of God. We can give so much attention to the Word, yet remain so unaffected by it, kind of like water flowing thru a pipe, the Word goes in and through us without any lasting effect.

Why is that? It's most likely because we are not approaching the Word in faith, expecting to hear from God--we are not approaching the Bible as that which is a revelation of God to us, and it's a revelation that wants to engage all our senses. God wants to open our eyes, our ears, our hearts, our imagination, our sense of smell, our sense of taste--all our senses to experience Him, and not just to read words that are embalmed on a page in the Bible. We need to allow those words to come to life by the Spirit of God.

Eugene Peterson goes on to say, "Scripture is read and heard - and touched and smelled and tasted- in order to be practiced . It is not for entertainment. It is not for diversion. It is not for culture."

Scripture Reference:

Acts 5:1-3 (GW)

¹ A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some property.

² They agreed to hold back some of the money {they had pledged} and turned only part of it over to the apostles.

³ Peter asked, "Ananias, why did you let Satan fill you with the idea that you could deceive the Holy Spirit? You've held back some of the money you received for the land.

We know that Satan was aware of this warning **because he falsely restated it to Eve.** He planted doubts in Eve's mind. He started to pit her against God, to cause her to question God's goodness and command.

Here in **Genesis 3:1 (GW)**

¹ The snake was more clever than all the wild animals the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must never eat the fruit of any tree in the garden?'"

Explain:

Actually, Satan himself can only be in one place at one time. But, you may remember that many of the angels followed Satan in his rebellion against God. God removed Satan and his rebellious followers from their positions of service to God in Heaven. These rebellious angels, or spirits, now roam the earth unseen and work with Satan against God and against men. These spirits are the ones whom Satan uses to tell us lies in our minds. Satan may even speak to you even when you are listening to God's Word.

He may put a question into your mind such as, "**Why should I believe the Bible?**"

Satan doesn't want anyone to know or to believe God. He hates God and he hates God's Word, the Bible, even though Satan knows that it is true! Sometimes Satan uses other people through whom he speaks his lies to us. These people may be knowingly following Satan, or they may just be deceived, like Eve.

Satan tries to make following these people look very attractive to us, even though it is the way of eventual death.

He tries to make us feel:

- That we will miss out on something if we don't follow along.
- That it is more important for us to follow a wrong leader or a wrong crowd rather than to risk losing our friends by doing what we know is right.
- Or Satan may reach us through another area of our own pride. We may not want to identify with the crowd but instead we want to be wiser than everyone else and to be very self-sufficient.
- That because we read a devotional for a few minutes each day, that we've got this intimate relationship with God.

- Satan works to make us feel devout and spiritual so that after reading the Bible for a few minutes, we can speak words of correction, or rebuke or judgment to our spouses, our children, our neighbors or other believers. Satan loves to bring us to a full-on self-righteousness. No matter what words we voice to others, they are empty if they are not voiced to us by the Spirit of God and received and lived out in faith and love.

Satan has brought many people to destruction through the lie that says man can be independent of God and do as he pleases because he is so intelligent and capable.

In recent days, we are hearing a great deal about Satan worship, Wicca and similar practices.

Most people have no desire to follow these things that are obviously satanic.

But many people are becoming involved in more subtle things that actually have Satan as their focus.

Satan can lull us into a self-righteous lethargy where we think we are mature believers and that we all full of knowledge about God—but we lack that intimate relationship with God where His Word is revelation to us and excites our hearts, our minds and our spirits.

The best thing Satan wants for you is to be religious. He loves religion and he wants you to be as religious as possible, because religion is man-made and it's man's attempt to clean himself up and look spiritual and good.

Satan works to keep us believing Scripture in such a way that it is written with **embalming fluid**.

We study it but it doesn't change our lives because we are not approaching it in faith. We are not "hearing" what the Spirit is saying to us. Satan has dulled our sense of hearing, so that we just read the Bible out of a sense of duty rather than a sense of awe and excitement.

Beware of:

- Anything that makes you look to a power other than Jehovah God for answers to life.
- Anything that exalts or gives a good, pleasant, or attractive connotation to anything that is really evil.
- Anything that exalts you or makes you think that God is in you, or that you have the ability to become godlike.
- Games or music or other entertainment that exalt killing, lying, stealing or immorality.
- Anything that denies God's existence or even "waters down" the Bible.
- Anything that denies that Jesus is the one true God. All of these kinds of things are really authored by Satan.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (GW)

4 The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. As a result, they don't see the light of the Good News about Christ's glory. It is Christ who is God's image.

E. Satan tempted and deceived Eve.

Theme: Satan fights against God and His will. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. He hates man.

Genesis 3:1 (GW)

¹ The snake was more clever than all the wild animals the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must never eat the fruit of any tree in the garden?’”

Why did Satan ask Eve this question?

He already knew the correct answer.

He didn’t care what God had said.

He was testing Eve so he could trick her.

He was attempting to cast doubt on God’s Word—this is one of Satan’s favorite tactics.

Theme: God communicates with man.

Genesis 3:2-3 (GW)

² The woman answered the snake, “We’re allowed to eat the fruit from any tree in the garden
³ except the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, ‘You must never eat it or touch it. If you do, you will die!’”

Satan had already succeeded in confusing Eve. Her answer was not what God had said. God didn’t say they could not touch the fruit. He had said they must not eat it.

God’s command was for both Adam and Eve.

God first gave this command to Adam. Adam apparently told Eve what God had said.

But, even though God did not give the command directly to Eve, the command included Eve. Whatever God said to Adam included Eve.

Consider:

The words in the Bible were spoken to people many years ago, but they are still God’s words to each one of us today. God doesn’t have different messages for different people. His message is the same to everyone—to all races and nationalities; to men, women, and children. Whatever He says to me in His Word, He also says to you.

Genesis 3:4-5 (GW)

⁴ “You certainly won’t die!” the snake told the woman. “God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened. You’ll be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Now Satan was calling God a liar.

He was no longer casting doubt; he was denying the truth—another of his favorite tactics. Satan himself is really the liar.

- He said the opposite of what God had told Adam.
- He was saying that what God said was not true.

Consider:

God had said: “If you eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will die that same day.” God meant that Adam and Eve would be cut off from God, the one who gave them life. God said, “You will die.” Satan said, “You will not die.” Satan was lying.

What was really behind Satan's lie?

Satan had rebelled against God's authority.
He sinned when he wanted to take God's place.
He didn't want to obey God any more.
He wanted to be independent of God and rule his own life.

Now Satan was suggesting to Eve that she should rebel against God.

Satan was suggesting that she should eat the fruit so that she could be like God in knowing what was good and what was evil.

Satan wanted Eve to believe that she wouldn't need God to tell her what was right and what was wrong.

But here is the truth:

God didn't make people to live by their own ideas and thoughts.
God made us to be guided by His own Word.
It doesn't matter what I think, what you think, what other people think, or what Satan and his demons say.
The important thing is what God says.

F. Eve ate and also gave the fruit to Adam.

Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.

Genesis 3:6 (GW)

⁶ The woman saw that the tree had fruit that was good to eat, nice to look at, and desirable for making someone wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

- Satan deceived Eve, and she believed him.
- She believed that Satan was telling the truth.
- She believed that she would be wise like God.
- Even though Adam knew that God had said not to eat, he deliberately disobeyed God's command. Adam turned away from depending on God.
- He wanted to be independent from God and decide for himself what was good and what was evil.

Instead of God being first in Adam's heart, Adam now made himself first. He wanted to be his own boss and do whatever he wanted to do. Adam didn't want God to rule over him anymore.

Did God have the right to rule over Adam? Yes, God was his Creator. Everything he had came from God.

Does God have the right to tell us what to do?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (GW)

¹⁶ Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval.

¹⁷ They equip God's servants so that they are completely prepared to do good things.

Yes, all that we have comes from God; He gave us our life.

G. Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Theme: God is faithful; He never changes.

Genesis 3:7-8 (GW)

⁷ Then their eyes were opened, and they both realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made clothes for themselves.

⁸ In the cool of the evening, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking around in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees in the garden.

What did God say would happen to them if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

What did God mean by "die"?

They didn't drop dead immediately when they ate the fruit.

They were still walking around.

They were making themselves coverings out of leaves.

Does this mean that God's Word didn't come true?

Was Satan right after all?

No! They were separated from God immediately when they ate the fruit. Remember my example of the power outage and having all your electrical power cut-off, leaving you in the dark. That's pretty much what happened to Adam and Eve.

- God always does what He says.
- He never changes.
- He doesn't forget His threats to punish disobedience of His commands.

Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

Why did their sin separate them from God?

Isaiah 59:2: "But your iniquities [sins] have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Because God is holy and righteous, He will not continue in friendship with those who disobey His commands.

He hates everything that is wrong and punishes all disobedience of His commands by death.

Romans 6:23 says, "...the wages of sin is death...."

Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they were cut off from their friendship with God. Their relationship with God was dead. They had taken sides with God's great enemy, Satan, and they, too, were now the enemies of God.

Illustrate: Imagine how horrible it would be if a friend of yours turned away from you and began to follow an enemy who hated you and even wanted to kill you. How heartbreaking it would be to realize that the one who was your friend had become your enemy!

During the time before the breakup of the Soviet Union, children were raised with a closer alignment to the Communist party than to their parents and families. One young boy, Pavel Morozov, upon learning that his father was resisting communism, turned his father in to the local authorities. The act resulted in Pavel's brutal murder along with his brother, by relatives.

This is how it must have felt like to God when Adam and Eve turned away from their friendship with God and began to follow Satan. Satan is God's great enemy, so when Adam and Eve turned away from God and followed Satan, they, too, became the enemies of God.

BRANCH BROKEN OFF FROM A TREE.

Remember that ice storm I told you about...there were tree limbs and branches everywhere. There were many streets where you couldn't go down them because there were so many tree limbs blocking the road. Maybe we could've picked up all those tree limbs and broken branches and glued them back onto the trees and they'd start growing again. Right? Of course not. When a tree limb is broken off, it doesn't die immediately but it's broken off from the tree that was its source of life. The process of dying may take many days. But in time the once-green leaves become dry and brown—they are completely dead.

The same thing happened to Adam and Eve. Death wasn't evident in their bodies on the day they disobeyed God. They were still breathing and walking around. But they had died to God. That part of them which was made in God's image so they could know, love, and obey Him was immediately separated from God when they disobeyed His command.

They were now separated from Him and had become the enemies of God. Their bodies would also eventually die, and they would go to the place of everlasting punishment which God prepared for Satan and the evil spirits.

H. Signs of separation from God

These were the signs that Adam & Eve were now separated from God:

First, their attitude toward their bodies changed immediately. Before they disobeyed God, they were naked but unembarrassed. Now they were separated from God, and their minds were no longer under God's control.

Their minds became evil, and their attitude toward their bodies changed.

They were embarrassed by their naked bodies.

Secondly, they tried to provide their own needs.

Before they were separated from God, they looked to God to provide everything they needed.

But now they tried to do things for themselves.

- They clothed themselves with fig leaves.
- They no longer trusted God to give them what they needed.
- They were trying to live independently of God.
- Perhaps they reasoned that if they clothed themselves, God wouldn't notice that anything had happened.

But God does not accept us based upon our outward appearance.

Consider:

Just as Adam and Eve tried to make themselves acceptable to God by putting on clothes, many people today think they can make themselves acceptable to God by the outward appearances of respectability.

Here are some examples:

- Becoming church members
- Approaching God's Word like ink on a page rather than the living Word of God.
- Doing daily devotionals, but not allowing God's Word to speak to us.
- Being good parents
- Endeavoring to be law-abiding citizens
- Holding membership in civic and charitable organizations.

I Samuel 16:7 says, "...man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

Theme: God is loving, merciful, and gracious.

Compare:

Do you have friends whom you enjoy visiting? God loved Adam and Eve, and so He came at the close of the day to talk with them.

Before they were separated from God, they loved Him and wanted to talk with Him. But when God came after they had disobeyed Him, Adam and Eve hid. Their attitude toward God had changed. Because of their disobedience to God, they were no longer His friends. When God first made Adam and Eve, they were of one mind with God. But this was no longer true. They were now of one mind with Satan. They could no longer know and understand God. They didn't love God anymore, and they were under Satan's control. Now they were on Satan's side.

Because they had disobeyed God's command, they were ashamed, and they were afraid of God.

Sin creates the painful knowledge that something is wrong with us; something is broken and tainted and stained.

Adam and Eve lived in a freedom, freedom from worthlessness; freedom from condemnation and shame until sin entered in.

We have a radar that goes off constantly evaluating our worth; whether we are good enough or not good enough; are we good looking enough or pretty enough or not; am I fit enough? am I smart enough? Am I athletic enough? Am I successful enough? Am I liked by people or am I not? WE are constantly surveying our environment looking for some evidence of worth in ourselves. WE are stricken with this disease. Wouldn't you like to have a few minutes of peace without having to worry about what you look like, or what others think about you?

We can't turn off this radar.

We are constant evaluators; evaluating how we measure up to others whenever we walk into a room full of people.

Sin leaves a stain on our souls to the extent that when we think about ourselves, we feel tainted and ruined, and no matter how hard we strive, no matter how hard we scrub or try to clean ourselves up, we cannot make the stain of sin disappear.

You have memories of sin and wrongdoing and things that have hurt you and others. Sin is ruining our souls right now.

In Gen. 3, before sin, they were not vulnerable, there was nothing to hide or be ashamed of. They were secure in God's love and had no fear or worries.

Sin creates the painful knowledge that something is wrong with us; something is broken, tainted. Adam and Eve lived from condemnation, from feelings of worthlessness; they were transparent and living in freedom and peace.

Sin is a spiritual toxin in our soul that is stealing every bit of worth from our life. We try to scrub it, or cleanse it. Look at Adam and Eve--they knew they were naked and they sewed fig leaves together. Adam and Eve hid themselves. There is an attempt to hide and push away what is wrong with them.

I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid. He's afraid that he's going to be exposed for what's wrong with him.

How much energy do we spend trying to keep our secrets at bay and hidden from everyone else so that we can maintain or keep up an image. That's a jail cell.

We are good at putting on the mask and playing the part. We know the things about ourselves that are stained, and we try to keep it hidden.

Adam and Eve sew fig leaves and they are hiding from God.

We try to hide the shame of our sin in various ways when really, all we're doing is putting perfume on a pig.

Sin—disobedience to God—brings fear and causes people to turn away from God.

What I want you to see here is that when God created Adam and Eve, they didn't fear anything.

- There was nothing in the world to fear. God was their friend.
- No animals would hurt them.
- All the world was good and beautiful. Sickness and death did not exist.

- Disobedience to God is the reason that we have fear in the world today.

Ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, there has been terrible fear in the hearts of men and women. We may not like to talk about our fears, but each of us has them. We may not talk about our shame, but we all have it. We may not talk about our brokenness, but we all know deep down inside that something is not right. Sin has left a stain on our souls. It's now part of our DNA, our genetic make-up. We've inherited it from Adam and Eve and we can trace it back to what we're reading here—their disobedience to God in the Garden.

Do you realize that Adam and Eve did not have to fear any of these things or anything else when God first created them? They were not wondering if they were pretty enough or handsome enough or measured up physically with everyone else. They weren't afraid of anything. They had no worries. They weren't concerned about having enough food to eat or clothes to wear. They weren't afraid or feeling insecure. All this came upon them and us because of their disobedience to God there in the garden.

Theme: God is faithful; He never changes.

Do you think that Adam and Eve should have been afraid of God? Would God really punish them for their disobedience?

Or is God like many people who only make idle threats?

Now Adam and Eve had good reason to be afraid of God. Why? Because they had disobeyed Him and He was their Creator.

- They depended upon God for everything.
- The very breath that they had in their bodies was given by God.
- All that they had came from God, and yet Adam had deliberately disobeyed God's command.
- God always punishes those who disobey any of His commands.

Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.

Were Adam and Eve able to hide from God?

No! God saw Adam and Eve when they were trying to hide among the trees.

Can anyone hide from God? Is there anywhere we can go where God is not already there? No! God is everywhere.

- No one can hide from Him.
- The darkness and the light are all the same to Him.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 (GW)

23 "I am a God who is near. I am also a God who is far away," declares the LORD.

24 "No one can hide so that I can't see him," declares the LORD. "I fill heaven and earth!" declares the LORD.

Illustrate:

When people do things that they know are wrong, they usually try to do them when other

people cannot see them. People do evil things in the dark. But God always sees and hears everything. Nothing can be hidden from God. God has heard and seen everything that we have said and done from the day that we were born.

I. Conclusion

What you have just heard is no simple tale about a man and a woman and a snake. It is the tragic event of man's separation from God.

John 14:21 (GW)

21 Whoever knows and obeys my commandments is the person who loves me. Those who love me will have my Father's love, and I, too, will love them and show myself to them.

- They were separated from God immediately, just as He said they would be.

This is one important thing we can learn from this story: God always tells the truth.

His Word is true.

He always does exactly what He says.

But in contrast to God who always speaks the truth, Satan is a liar and a murderer.

He said Adam and Eve would not die if they disobeyed God, but he knew that they would.

He deceived, lied, and tempted Adam and Eve because he wanted them to die.

Beware! Satan is still the same today.

He is not the character with the pitchfork and red suit who is easy to identify.

He is the Deceiver, the enemy of our souls.

He will use any method to keep us from listening to God's Word.

He doesn't want us to listen to God's Word because he wants us to be separated from God forever.

Next Lesson: God's promise & curse