St. Andrew’s Cathedral Dr. Rick Griffith

11 January 2015 Single Message

NLT 25 Minutes

 **Adam & Eve: To Obey or To Disobey**

Title

***Genesis 3:1-13***

**Topic:** Obedience

**Subject:** *Why* do we disobey God?

**Complement:** We trust ourselves—not God—so trust Christ instead of yourself.

**Purpose:** The listeners will trust Christ to save them from their sin.

**Reading:** Genesis 2 provides the context

**Song:** Trust & Obey

# Introduction

### Interest: I want to ask you a simple question today. Answer to the person next to you.

Subject

### Subject: *Why* do we disobey God? You say “sin,” yes, but why do we sin?

Timeline

### Background: The Bible gives the answer at the beginning. Genesis 2 gives the context to understand why man first disobeyed God in Genesis 3.

Genesis 2

#### Pagan teachings at that time said that the gods created man as their slaves to do the work they didn’t want to do!

Two Accounts

Atrahasis

#### But the Bible has a much greater view of man. Genesis 1 shows God creating everything in the beginning.

• Gen. 2

#### The next chapter zeros in on day 6 where Adam and Eve were created.

#### God made man in his own image: (1) to rule creation, (2) with dignity, and (3) able to relate to him.

#### Ancient kings placed images (statues) of themselves in the remotest parts of their empires to represent their sovereignty—and so did God! He gave us a mind, emotions and will so could know, love, and obey him.

Triangle

#### Going into Genesis 3 we have one, sovereign God who made everything good. Man has no sin, pain or evil and lives in complete fellowship with God.

Imago Dei

Adam

#### Life started great for animals [2 slides].

Animals
(2 slides)

#### Life started great for people too [2 slides].

People
(2 slides)

#### But God needed to include the tree to give man a choice whether to follow him or not. He told him not to eat from it.

Tree

### Preview: Genesis 3 teaches us two great truths: what we did wrong and what God did about it. We will see our failure and God’s provision. We will discover the problem and God’s solution.

Genesis 3
• Wrong
• Right

MP

(The first verses of Genesis 3 reveal our dilemma, that...)

# I. We trust ourselves instead of God (3:1-6).

[We need to be saved from our independence that leads to sin.]

## We try to live without God (3:1-6).

SP

### Eve *doubted God’s word* as a disgruntled legalist (3:1-3).

2-3

1

#### Notice how Satan came in disguise to tempt Eve to doubt God’s word

#### Eve didn’t trust God’s word in that she tried to defend what God said by adding to it!

Word

#### Satan still tries to make think we don’t need God today.

Man

##### One atheist claims he is “God free, happy, and inspired by wonder.”

Woman

##### “Believe inhumanity, not god,” says another.

(So in this confrontation Eve first doubted God’s ***word***. What else did she doubt?)

Confront

Word

### Eve *doubted God’s goodness* as if he jealously held her back (3:4-5).

Doubted Goodness

#### “The serpent then challenged God’s judgment by claiming ‘*you will not surely die’* and promised instead sophistication (that their *eyes will be opened*) and spiritual advancement (that they will be *like God*)” (Wenham, “Genesis,” *New Bible Commentary*).

4-5

#### One cartoonist depicted the dialogue like this [read slides].

Cartoon
(3 slides)

Going for it

(So where did Eve’s doubt of God’s word and goodness lead?)

### Eve’s bodily cravings, greed and pride motivated her to sin by eating the fruit (3:6).

6

#### God had given her a mind (but she used it to doubt), emotions (but she used them to deny what she knew was wrong), and a will—but she used her will to disobey the clear will of God. Why? [Eve *felt God was unfair* by not letting her be God (3:4-5).]

Yielding to Temptation

#### Sadly, Adam was right there with her—but instead of leading and protecting her, Adam left Eve alone to face the enemy—and he also ate with her. *Some leader!*

Adam ate too

#### The Chinese world has known about the true origin for evil for thousands of years. It is built right into their language. The Chinese pictograph for "evil" reflects Genesis 3. It has the green symbol for "garden" placed under a "great expanse" in blue. In the garden are two trees in black and a child is playing there. Right next to this child is a small mark that stands for "whisperer."

Chinese

#### It’s interesting to note the parallels with both 1 John 1:15-16 and the temptation of Christ in Matthew 4. [Explain chart *briefly*.]

Parallels

Blame Game

(What, then, were the results of this first sin of man? One might call it “The Blame Game”!)

## Our independence brings blame, shame and pain (3:7-13, 17-19).

Sad Results

### Adam and Eve felt deep shame (3:7-13).

7

### It brought defeat for Satan—but hold that thought for a few minutes.

• Defeat

### God judged Eve with painful childbirth (3:16).

• Pain

### God judged Adam with painful work (3:17-18).

17-19

• Toil

### God judged humanity with death (3:19).

• Death

(So did death exist before sin? What do you think? God said that his creation up to this time was “very good.” What does it mean that creation was “very good” if death existed then?)

Death Before Sin?

## Two histories of death are taught in our world today.

Two Histories

### Genesis 1–3 teaches that there was no death initially, but man’s sin brought death into the world—yet we look to a future without death.

### However, man’s opinion is that life and death have always been together for millions of years and as long as there is life, there will be death! How sad!

• Man’s View

Eden

###  It all started good, but the fossil record shows horrible things that came out of the Flood.

• Fossils

### It started with Adam. Romans 5: “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 5

### The NLT renders this, “When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.”

NLT

MPI restated

(So why do we die? Because since the beginning we have trusted ourselves instead of God.

So we have a huge problem—we did in Genesis 3 and we still do today—we trust in ourselves in prideful sin. Does God have a solution? Yes!)

Hands

# II. Jesus saves us from sin’s penalty.

MP

[Even Genesis 3 says that God provides Christ as our Savior from the cost of our independence.]

8-9

## God went looking for Adam—not Adam looking for God (3:8-11).

10-11

## God promised a Savior to defeat Satan (3:14-15).

15

### We have hated snakes since this day!

### More seriously, God promised that one of Eve’s descendants would strike the mortal blow to Satan. Jesus did this at the cross!

(So *why* do we disobey God? Because we trust ourselves—not God. So what should we do instead?)

Subject

# Conclusion

### We trust ourselves—not God—so trust Christ instead of yourself (MI).

MI

### I told you when I started that we would see both what went wrong and how our problem is met with God’s solution [Main Points]:

MPI

Word
Good

Preview

MPII

#### We trust ourselves instead of God—especially doubt of his word and goodness.

#### Jesus saves us from sin’s penalty.

### The most significant question was posed by one church sign: “What if God doesn’t believe in atheists?”

Sign

Poem

### One poet wrote… [read].

### More than that, we need a risen Savior to change our lives.

Risen

### What or *who are you trusting* to save you from your sin?

Trust

#### Whatever you trust has to be reliable!

#### Trust Christ to save you from your sin.

### Prayer to trust Christ

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### At this point in the narrative, man is in a *perfect* state—it never had been this good, as God had provided all that we ever needed.

### Adam had been naming animals all day, and he continued to name his wife “Eve,” which means “life” since he knew that she would be the means to bring forth the command to be fruitful and multiply.

### To top it all off, Adam and his wife lived without a bit of shame, even though they had as much clothes on as the animals!

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Genesis 2 ends with us wondering, “Wow, then what happened? How did such a beautiful world get into such a mess? What did God do to cause it?”

### Chapter 3 informs us that it wasn’t *God* who was at fault—it was *our fault*—yet, even still, God provides a way of salvation even while needing to judge our sin.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### In my study of Ancient Near East creation myths, I have not yet come across even one that actually explains how sin entered the world.

### In fact, these myths show the gods as being sinful themselves—and they don’t show a perfect creation—so the question isn’t really addressed by them.

### Nor is it today. But the Bible has an answer to the origin of sin, so let’s see what it says and how God he also provides the origin of a Savior.

# Questions

### When did Satan fall?

#### The world was created perfect and continued in perfection on day 7, so Satan must have sinned after the first week.

#### However, Adam and Eve had no sexual relations prior to the Fall, so Satan’s fall must have been shortly after day 7—perhaps days 8-10 or so.

### What is a serpent (3:1)? Is it the same as a snake?

### What is the significance of Satan taking the form of a serpent (3:1)?

#### “The tempter was a serpent (Satan in the form of a snake), thus suggesting that temptation comes in disguise, quite unexpectedly, and that it often comes from a subordinate (someone over whom one should have exercised dominion; cf. Gen. 1:28).”

#### “Also there may well be a polemical element here, for the serpent was worshiped by pagans. Their symbol of life was in fact the cause of death. Divinity is not achieved (the promise of Satan here; 3:5) by following pagan beliefs and symbols. That is the way of death, not of life” (Ross, BKC).

### Why wasn’t it strange that Eve was able to talk to a serpent (1-2)? Was she able to talk to other animals too?

#### No one knows the answer to this question.

### What was Eve actually doing by saying that death came by touching the fruit (3b)?

#### She *strengthened the penalty* by being even more legalistic than God in that she added to his initial penalty of death only for *eating* the fruit—not for touching it (2:16).

#### “Eve disparaged the privileges, added to the prohibition, and *weakened the penalty*—all seen by contrasting her words (Gen. 3:3) with God’s original commands (2:16-17)” (BKC).

### Was it true that eating the fruit made them like God in that they then knew good and evil (5)?

#### In one sense, yes, they discovered evil that they had not known existed in Satan’s realm. “Satan held out to them the promise of divinity—**knowing good and evil**” (Ross, BKC).

#### But was learning about evil an advantage when they lived in innocence? Do we end up better off because we expose ourselves to evil today?

### Why didn’t they die immediately? Or did they?

#### Adam didn’t die for 930 years.

#### But immediately after eating the fruit, they did die spiritually.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

# *Exegetical Idea*: The reason for man’s fall is Satan tempting Adam, yet God graciously provides for man to get out of this state (Ch. 3).

# *Exegetical Idea*: The reason man needs a Savior is because he yielded to Satan’s temptation to take God’s place (Ch. 3).

# *Exegetical Idea*: The reason man needs a Savior is because God still sought man after the Fall (Ch. 3).

# Possible Illustrations

### The cartoon at the principal’s office shows the kids confessing why they are in the waiting room.

CHRISTMAS Christ replaced with idols

When Baby Jesus disappeared … from a Nativity scene on the lawn of the Wellington, Fla., community center, village officials didn't follow a star to locate him. A GPS device mounted inside the life-size ceramic figurine led sheriff's deputies to a nearby apartment, where it was found face down on the carpet. An 18-year-old woman was arrested in the theft.

Giving up on old-fashioned padlocks and trust, a number of churches, synagogues, governments and ordinary citizens are turning to technology to protect holiday displays from pranks or prejudice.

It's a sign of the times. Holiday display theft is on the rise, and Baby Jesus is a particularly common target.

1. At First United Methodist Church in Kittanning, PA, a baby Jesus was stolen and replaced with a pumpkin.
2. In Eureka Springs, AK, someone who took off with a plastic baby Jesus from a public display, as well as the concrete block and chain that was supposed to keep it locked down.
3. In Meridian Hills, IN, a couple stole the figurine, and then led police on a high-speed chase in an effort to keep their loot.
4. A parishioner of a Brooklyn church prayed that whoever stole the Baby Jesus from a $1,700 Nativity scene dedicated to his late parents would have the heart to return it.

Sensing the opportunity, reports NBC News, security companies have increasingly started rolling out products and special seasonal contracts specifically designed to address the threat. "We have seen a growing number of cities and homeowners simply frustrated with holiday theft and vandalism, and that is the primary reason behind the increased use of GPS theft recovery systems during the holidays," explained a Tracking System Direct specialist.

**Application:**

"Stealing" Jesus isn't just a "seasonal" threat.

Everyday, whether at the hands of false religions, pseudo-Christian cults, false prophets, or even secular humanists and atheists, Jesus is being plucked from his place of prominence in the Gospel message.

Materialists and commercialists pluck him from the center of the Christmas season and replace Him with Santas and sleighs and gifts and gadgets galore.

Secular humanists and atheists rob Him of His divinity, reducing Him to mere human, or worse yet, mythical status.

Take whatever security measures are necessary to keep Jesus in your Christmas this holiday season, giving Him, in all His glory, His place of preeminence.

"Giving thanks unto the Father ... Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:12-18, KJV).

**Stealing Baby Jesus**

[Printer Friendly](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=b5b7df9e44&e=aa849ca33b)

Author: [Illustration Exchange](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=f131f1e1d0&e=aa849ca33b)

Scripture: Colossians 1:12-18

Source: Tracking Systems Direct

[Visit the source](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=40a6ba749c&e=aa849ca33b)

[NBC News](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=ed36143396&e=aa849ca33b):

### Remember my stories at the beginning about Baby Jesus getting stolen? Responding to these reports, one pastor noted that "stealing" Jesus isn't just a "seasonal" threat:

#### “Everyday, whether at the hands of false religions, pseudo-Christian cults, false prophets, or even secular humanists and atheists, Jesus is being plucked from his place of prominence in the Gospel message.

#### “Materialists and commercialists pluck him from the center of the Christmas season and replace Him with Santas and sleighs and gifts and gadgets galore.

#### “Secular humanists and atheists rob Him of His divinity, reducing Him to mere human, or worse yet, mythical status.

#### “Take whatever security measures are necessary to keep Jesus in your Christmas this holiday season, giving Him, in all His glory, His place of preeminence” (Illustration Exchange).

### Our base instincts are very evident on YouTube. Just look at the number of hits on a video. If the link has suggestive sexual connotations, it will have millions of hits. However, if it teaches biblical truth, it will have very few subscribers.

### The basic meaning of redemption is to “buy back from the slave market.”

# Possible Applications

### Text

# 2. OT Survey Outline

The fall of man places responsibility for alienation from God upon Satan and man himself, yet God graciously makes provision for man to get out of this state (Ch. 3).

Man’s temptation shows that Satan has lied from the time of his own fall (3:1-5).

The yielding to the temptation shows that man alone is responsible for his alienation from God (3:6-13).

The resultant curses of God upon Satan, women, and men is counterbalanced with God's promise of a Redeemer, gracious provision of animal skins, and protection from remaining in his sinful state eternally (3:14-24).

Note: For a helpful article on the meaning of the woman’s “desire for her husband” see Susan Foh, “What is the Woman’s Desire?” *Westminster Theological Journal* 37 (1974-75): 376-83. Her view that this means that women will want to usurp man’s leadership is opposed (unsuccessfully) by Irvin A. Busenitz, “Woman’s Desire for Man: Genesis 3:16 Reconsidered,” *Grace Theological Journal* 7 (1986): 203-12, who argues that Song of Solomon 1:10 (11) shows that Genesis 3:16 means women will have a “longing for intimacy.” For H. Wayne House’s review of both articles see *Bibliotheca Sacra* 144 (October-December 1987): 462-63.

**Our Christmas Savior**

***Genesis 3***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The reason God provided a Savior is because, despite our independence, shame and pain, God still loves us (Ch. 3).

# I. The *reason for man’s fall* is because Eve tried to live without God (3:1-6).

## Eve *doubted God’s word* as a disgruntled legalist (3:1-3).

## Eve *doubted God’s goodness* as if he jealously held her back (3:4-5).

## Eve’s bodily cravings, greed and pride motivated her and Adam to sin by eating the fruit (3:6).

# II. The *results of man’s fall* were shame, pain and a promised Savior (3:7-19).

## Adam and Eve felt deep shame (3:7-13).

## Satan would be defeated by man’s Savior (3:14-15).

## God judged Eve with painful childbirth (3:16).

## God judged Adam with painful work (3:17-19).

# III. The *response of God* to man’s fall was loving redemption (3:20-24).

## God gave Adam hope for the future by naming his wife Eve, *living* (3:20).

## God killed animals to clothe Adam and Eve with reminders of redemption (3:21).

## God prevented them from forever living in sin (3:22-24).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will trust Christ to save them from their sin.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Baby Jesus is disappearing from Christmas.

### Need: But do you really need a savior today?

### Subject: *Why* did God give us a Savior?

### Background: The Bible says God gave us a Savior at Christmas.

### Preview: Genesis 3 teaches us two great truths: what we did wrong and what God did about it.

(The first verses of Genesis 3 reveal our dilemma, that...)

# I. We trust ourselves instead of God.

## We try to live without God (3:1-6).

### Eve *doubted God’s word* as a disgruntled legalist (3:1-3).

### Eve *doubted God’s goodness* as if he jealously held her back (3:4-5).

### Eve’s bodily cravings, greed and pride motivated her and Adam to sin by eating the fruit (3:6).

## Our independence brings blame, shame and pain (3:7-13, 17-19).

### Adam and Eve felt deep shame (3:7-13).

### God judged Eve with painful childbirth (3:16).

### God judged Adam with painful work (3:17-18).

### God judged humanity with death (3:19).

## Two histories of death are taught in our world today.

(So we have a huge problem—we did in Genesis 3 and we still do today—we have trust in ourselves in prideful sin. Does God have a solution? Yes!)

# II. Jesus saves us from sin’s penalty.

## God went looking for Adam—not Adam looking for God (3:8-11).

## God promised a Savior to defeat Satan (3:14-15).

## God gave Adam hope for the future by naming his wife Eve, *living* (3:20).

## God killed animals to clothe Adam and Eve with reminders of redemption (3:21).

## God prevented them from forever living in sin (3:22-24).

(So why did God give us a Savior? He sent Christ because…)

# Conclusion

### Jesus saves us from sin’s penalty (MI repeated).

### Main Points—Our problem is met with God’s solution.

### What or *who are you trusting* to save you from your sin?

#### Whatever you trust has to be reliable!

#### Trust Christ to save you from your sin.

### Prayer to trust Christ



**Rick Griffith**

14 December 2014

Message 2 of 3

**Our Christmas Savior**

***Genesis 3***

# Introduction

### Baby Jesus is disappearing from Christmas.

### But do you really need a Savior today?

### *Why* did God give us a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

### The Bible says God gave us a Savior at Christmas.

### Genesis 3 teaches us two great truths: what we did wrong and what God did about it.

# I. We trust \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instead of God.

## We try to live without God (3:1-6).

### Eve *doubted God’s word* as a disgruntled legalist (3:1-3).

### Eve *doubted God’s goodness* as if he jealously held her back (3:4-5).

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## Our independence brings blame, shame and pain (3:7-13, 17-19).

### Adam and Eve felt deep shame (3:7-13).

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## Two histories of death are taught in our world today.

(So we have a huge problem—Does God have a solution? Yes!)

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## God prevented them from forever living in sin (3:22-24).

# Conclusion

### Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us from sin’s penalty (Main Idea again).

### What or *who are you trusting* to save you from your sin?

#### Whatever you trust has to be reliable!

#### Trust Christ to save you from your sin.

**Thought Questions**

1. Read Genesis 3 again aloud. Contrast man’s way and God’s way in each section:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Man’s Way** | **God’s Way** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |

1. Why didn’t they die immediately? Or did they?

Text

1. How did you answer the question at the end of the message in terms of the source of your trust right now?

Text