



A BETTER WORD

BEYOND REPAIR

A Study Through Genesis 1–11 | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

A Long Fall, Part 1

Genesis 3:1–13

THE BIG IDEA

Following Satan's deception always leads to destruction — but even in the wreckage of your worst rebellion, God comes looking for you.

SERMON SUMMARY

Genesis 3 records the worst day in human history. Adam and Eve lacked for nothing in the garden — meaningful work, perfect provision, and unbroken nearness to God himself. Then Satan, the crafty serpent introduced in verse one, entered the scene with a single goal: to steal, kill, and destroy. He moved Eve from temptation to sin in three small steps — sowing doubt about God's word, directly contradicting it, and finally accusing God's motives, promising that she could be “like God” when she already bore his very image.

Once the fruit was eaten, shame and fear replaced intimacy with God, and blame replaced confession. Adam pointed to Eve, Eve pointed to the serpent, and the damage was done. Yet even here, God's first move toward fallen humanity was a question, not a sentence: “Where are you?” He drew them out of hiding rather than driving them further into it — a foretaste of the rescue that would ultimately come through his Son.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Genesis 3:1 introduces the serpent as “more crafty than any other beast of the field.” What do passages like Isaiah 14, 2 Corinthians 11:14, and John 8:44 add to your understanding of who Satan is and what he is after?
2. Walk through verses 1, 4, and 5 and notice the progression of the lie: first a question that twists God's word, then a flat denial of consequences, then an accusation against God's motives. Why is it important to notice that temptation rarely arrives as one big lie, but as a series of smaller ones?
3. The substance of Satan's lie was the promise that Eve could “be like God” — when she had already been made in his image. Why is that irony so significant, and where do you see that same lie show up in your own life today?
4. After they sinned, Adam and Eve experienced shame and hid from God, yet his first words to them were “Where are you?” — not an accusation, but an invitation. What does this reveal about God's posture toward you in the moments right after you've sinned?
5. When confronted, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent rather than confessing. Where in your life right now are you more inclined to justify or explain away sin rather than name it honestly before God?

LIVING IT OUT

Temptation rarely announces itself loudly. It comes quietly, a small question about whether God's word can really be trusted, and it moves you step by step from doubt to disobedience. The good news in this dark chapter is that God's first response to your sin is never to abandon you — it's to seek you out.

Heart Check: Where has a small seed of doubt about God's word taken root in an area of your life? What is the lie you're tempted to believe is more true than what God has said?

This Week: Identify one place where you've been blaming someone or something else rather than owning your own sin before God. This week, bring it to him honestly in prayer — not to wallow in shame, but to be found by the one who is already looking for you.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

"But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, Where are you?"

— **Genesis 3:9**

Confess to God the specific lie you've believed this week, and thank him for being the kind of God who comes looking for you in your hiding places rather than turning away.

Your Prayer:

Find more sermon study guides, messages, and resources at ABETTERWORD.ORG