



A BETTER WORD

BEYOND REPAIR

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

A Long Fall, Part 2

Genesis 3:14–24

THE BIG IDEA

Sin pollutes everything it touches — work, marriage, and most of all your nearness to God — but God’s redemptive plan was already unfolding the moment sin entered the world.

SERMON SUMMARY

The curse in Genesis 3 reaches into every corner of human life — childbearing, marriage, and work are all touched by sin’s devastation. But the deepest loss was never the garden itself; it was the loss of unbroken access to the person of God. Our biggest problem isn’t the list of sins we commit — it’s the pollution of sin we carry, like a single drop of poison in a gallon of water. No matter how clean the rest of the water looks, the whole gallon is undrinkable.

Yet even as judgment is announced, hope is woven into the curse itself. God tells the serpent that the offspring of the woman will one day bruise his head — a promise fulfilled in Jesus, who took on our poisoned cup so that we could drink the water of life instead. Paradise was gained, paradise was lost, but through Christ, paradise is coming again, and the God who once banished us now draws near and even indwells those who trust in him.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. God’s curse in verses 16–19 touches childbearing, marriage, and work — three of the most central relationships in human life. Where do you see the fingerprints of this curse most clearly in your own daily experience?
2. John Walton describes sin as a desecration of God rather than merely a flaw in us, similar to a flag being trampled. How does shifting your view of sin from “bad things I do” to “a pollution that separates me from God” change how seriously you take it?
3. Genesis 3:15 promises that the offspring of the woman will crush the serpent’s head. How does Hebrews 2:14 show this promise being fulfilled, and why does it matter that this hope appears in the very moment of judgment?
4. Second Corinthians 5:21 says Jesus “became sin” so that we could become the righteousness of God. How would you explain this exchange to someone who has never heard the gospel?
5. Compare what was lost in the garden — nearness to God, harmony, unbroken relationship — with what John 14 promises is restored through Jesus. Which of those losses do you feel most acutely in your own life right now, and how does Christ’s nearness speak to it?

LIVING IT OUT

It's tempting to measure your standing with God by tallying good deeds against bad ones, as if the scale could ever tip in your favor. But the real issue has never been the individual sins — it's the sin nature underneath them. The good news is that Jesus didn't come to even the scales; he came to take the poison himself.

Heart Check: Have you been operating as though your good deeds can outweigh your sin, rather than recognizing your need to be cleansed at the root? Where do you feel the distance from God that sin creates?

This Week: Spend time in 1 John 1:9 each day this week, confessing specific sin rather than generalities, and thank God that Jesus already drank the cup you deserved.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

— 1 John 1:9

Ask God to show you any area where you've minimized the pollution of sin in your life, and thank him that Jesus took your poisoned cup so you could drink the water of life.

Your Prayer:

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