

In Genesis 3, the serpent (Revelation 12:9) didn't offer something ugly, he offered something beautiful. Something that looked right. But beneath the surface was spiritual poison. What seemed like a small choice unraveled everything. Temptation didn't show up as a monster... it showed up as a meal!

## TEMPTATION'S TRICKS (3:1-6)

*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.'" 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. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

1. It is often subtle, not only shocking ("was more crafty than any")

*Matthew 26:41, Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation...*

2. It casts doubt on God's Word ("Did God really say")
3. It tries to make God's Word seem unreasonable ("must not eat from any tree")
4. It downplays the danger of sin ("You will not certainly die")

*John 10:10, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life...*

5. It whispers the lie that God is holding out on us ("God knows that when you eat")

*1 John 2:16, For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.*

*Nahum 1:7, The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.*

6. It feeds pride & self-rule ("you will be like God")
7. It feels less guilty in groups, but the opposite is true ("She also gave some to her husband")

## SIN'S CONSEQUENCES (3:7-20)

*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, 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." 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?" 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." 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... 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." 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.” 20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

1. It brings shame & strips away innocence (“realized they were naked”)
2. It shows inadequacy of human fixes to spiritual issues (“they sewed fig leaves...made coverings”)
3. It drives us from those who love us (“they hid from the Lord”)
4. It transforms responsibility into blame-shifting (“who told you...the woman...the serpent”)
5. It adds pain even into life’s greatest moments (“pains in childbearing”)
6. It distorts relationships (“your desire will be for your husband...he will rule over you”)
7. It turns fulfilling work into weary toil (“through pain toil & by the sweat of your brow”)
8. It ends in death (physical & spiritual) (“to dust you will return”)

### **GOD’S GRACE (3:15; 21–24)**

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel”...21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

1. It provides a Savior to redeem us
2. It covers our shame with a sacrificial substitute
3. It protects us through painful consequences: banished
4. It meets us right at the moment of temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13, 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.

Hebrews 2:18, he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

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Are you sick of the destruction your sin has caused? Stop eating poisonous berries! Whether it’s repenting of sin, or placing your trust in Jesus for the first time, would you reach out to a pastor (or your group leader) this week so we can help you? Text COFFEE to (951)425-4425 to set it up.