

THE DEATH OF DEATH (PART 2): THE PROBLEM

SERMON NOTES • MAY 5, 2019



GENESIS 3:1-13, 22-24 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

...²² Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— ²³ therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Getting Honest About Sin & Death

Psalm 13:1-2

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Job 14:7-12

⁷For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸ Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, ⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. ¹⁰ But mortals die, and are laid low; humans expire, and where are they? ¹¹ As waters fail from a lake, and a river wastes away and dries up, ¹² so mortals lie down and do not rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their sleep.

Where Did Sin & Death Come From?



Four possibilities that explain sin and death:

- ___ There is no God.
- ___ God is good but not all-powerful.
- ___ God is all-powerful, but not good.
- ___ We did it.

Romans 5:12

Sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned.”

Two Glimmers of Hope

Isaiah 42:7

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

Daniel 12:2

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

GET YOUR WET SUIT ON, WE'RE GOING DEEP:

- What brokenness do you see in the world that most unsettles you?
- What about in your own choices and behavior?
- Is this broken world just the way things are; should we just accept it?
- What about Death? Is it an end to life, or do you think there is life beyond life?

PRAYER:

God of Truth & Grace, It's so easy to close my eyes to the sin and suffering around and within me. It's too much to bear, and so I'd rather not face it. But you didn't make me to go through life with my eyes and heart half open. Help me see the truth. Help me feel the burden. And in so doing, birth within me an awareness of my absolute dependence upon Your saving power. Amen