Genesis

## **The Fall – Day 7 (3:1-13)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible.*

## **An Unholy Conversation (3:1-5)**

* Something odd here
	+ The serpent
		- One of the creatures created on the sixth day
		- “Crafty”
			* Not a bad term
			* Descriptive as it’s nature
			* Matthew 10:16
	+ What is not said
		- It is not the serpent, but Satan behind this.
			* Therefore, when did Satan enter into the serpent?
		- “He said…”
			* Did the other animals talk?
			* Or did Adam and Eve have understanding of the “language” of the animals?
				+ Dr. Doolittle
		- “…to the woman”
			* Why not to Adam?
				+ Goes after the weaker sex?

Created order

* + - * Where is Adam?
				+ Luther speculates that he and Eve (not named yet) had been walking around in pure bliss and righteousness talking about the Word of God and His creation for them and praising God for it.
				+ There is no reason for Adam to be apart from Eve.
			* Why is Satan allowed to interfere?
				+ Dangerous question.

Scripture is silent

Job 40:2

“It is wicked curiosity to investigate these problems in greater detail. Therefore let us, who are clay in His hands, cease to discus such questions. Let us not sit in judgment on our God; let us rather be judged by Him.” – Luther

* “Did God actually say”
	+ Earlier God creates by His spoken Word
		- Now Satan seeks to create something in unholy competition for worship.
		- “With a word Satan attacks the Word.” – Luther.
	+ Temptation of doubt is sown.
		- “This was the greatest and severest of all temptations; for the serpent directs its attack at God’s good will and makes it its business to prove from the prohibition of the tree that God’s will for man is not good.” – Luther
		- An attack on the image and will of God
		- Why is doubt so bad?
		- A trait used by all heretics
			* Lutherans in Finland on trial
	+ The boldness of Satan
		- Note the switch from “the LORD God” to “God”
* “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden.”
	+ Satan’s claim is that everything should be open to Adam and Eve.
* Eve responds
	+ “Yes, except the one in the middle.”
		- She’s off to a good start!
	+ “Neither shall you touch it.”
		- Compare to 2:17
		- Where did the addition come from?
			* Adam?
			* Eve?
				+ Consider the Pharisees and the Law in Jesus’ day
	+ “Lest you die”
		- Where is the certainty?
		- What is death?
* Satan sees an opening.
	+ “You will not surely die.”
		- “Listen to me”
		- The knowledge of death.
			* This serpent seems to know more about this “death” than God and Adam.
		- Denial and rejection of God’s Word and promise.
			* John 8:44
			* 2 Corinthians 11:3
			* Isaiah 7:9b
	+ Eyes opened
		- Double edged sword?
			* “God is keeping you from being like Him… the big meanie!”
				+ or
			* “God must want you to know the difference. He is good. He would not want to withhold anything that would be useful to you.”
				+ Luther tends to side with the later, rather than bring up resentment against God.
		- Ultimately, Satan offers Eve something new:
			* You get to establish *your* own standard of right and wrong.
				+ To be like God
		- A twist of truth
			* They knew good…
			* But to know what evil is,
				+ You have to do it.

## **From Temptation to Action (3:6-8)**

* James 1:14
* Job 28:28
* Psalm 111:10
* So the woman sees…
	+ 1 Timothy 2:14
	+ And self justifies…
		- To gain what she does not have…
			* She takes.
			* She eats.
			* She shares.
				+ He takes
				+ He eats
* What’s with Adam?
	+ Why didn’t he stop her?
	+ The seduction of Adam
		- By the woman
			* Unwilling to cause sadness for his wife
			* Preferred his wife’s love to God’s
		- By himself
			* Because…
	+ She didn’t drop dead.
		- An action of “one”
		- “When sin is active, it is not felt. It does not frighten, and it does not bite; but it flatters and delights.” – Luther.
		- Unbelief remained until…
* Their eyes were opened
	+ And the Law hits.
		- Romans 3:20
			* “The Law does nothing else than reveal sin or make it alive…
			* …It lies still while it is active; but when the Law comes, then the eyes are opened, and man becomes aware of what God has commanded and that punishment He has established for the transgressors…
			* …then there is the true knowledge of sin, knowledge which human hearts cannot bear unless comfort comes from God.” – Luther
* There is now a problem with being naked.
	+ The best of God’s beautiful and good creation was now seen as something needing to be covered up.
		- The parts God gave them for procreation were now viewed as shameful.
		- The parts God gave them for expelling impurities were now shameful.
	+ A loss of righteousness.
* “cool of the day”
	+ Hebrew word for wind/Spirit
		- Connected to the “sound of the LORD God walking…
			* Adam and his wife are jumpy.
				+ What sounds startle you today?
* But instead of going to God…
	+ They hide.
		- Separation from God is sought
		- Man now has fear.
			* How much easier is it for us to run to the devil and hide from God!
		- Man also has stupidity.
			* Psalm 139:1-12
			* Jeremiah 23:23-24

## **The Trial – Part 1 (3:9-12)**

* The LORD God calls to the man
	+ Singular not plural
		- Eve is not called for.
		- Created order and responsibility.
			* Adam heard the original commandment.
* “Where are you”
	+ Words of Law
		- Hebrews 4:13
	+ Rhetorical question
		- Psalms 90:8
		- Isaiah 29:15
* Adam’s response
	+ The stupidity continues
		- “I was afraid of you because I was naked.”
			* Adam begins to try and turn the blame on God for his hiding and nakedness.
				+ Does this still happen?
* The LORD God responds
	+ “Who told you?”
		- Rhetorical question #2
			* God knows while Adam (and we) squirm.
* Yet Adam cannot bring himself to confession.
	+ The tight grip of sin and fear of the Law
	+ “The woman ***You*** gave me!”
		- “There is a well-known teaching in the schools of the rhetoricians that if one has been charged with a crime, he should either deny it or defend it as having been committed legally.” - Luther
		- Adam does both.
			* Throws his wife under the bus.
			* Throws it back in God’s face.
		- A statement full of anger and resentment towards God
			* When no Gospel is present, what does the power of the Law do?
* An opportunity given
	+ The LORD God gives the opportunity for Eve to confess, but…
	+ She too shifts the blame.
	+ The deceiver