

BELPRES CHURCH

Sermon Title: Rotten Fruit

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-11

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’?”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but 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.”

⁶When 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. ⁷Then 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.

⁸Then 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. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

Discussion Questions: Read Genesis 3

Opening Questions:

- Looking back, were you able to apply any of the things we talked about last time to your life this week? What did you do? How did it go?

Scripture Reflection Questions -- Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage and sermon?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection Questions – Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

- Which of the serpent's statements are true and which are false? Why do you think the serpent mixes true and false statements? What does that tell you about how Satan works?
- Compare Eve's response (vv. 2,3) with what God actually said and did (2:9,16,17). How does Eve hedge, fixate upon, and amplify God's commandments? How does that play into Satan's schemes?
- How can something that sounds good -- the beauty, nourishment or knowledge conveyed by the fruit -- be wrong?
- Verse 6 says that Adam was with Eve during the entire temptation. Why do you think he was silent? What does this say about Adam's complicity in the first sin?
- What are the consequences of their disobedience? Compare verses 7-13 with the previous chapter. How has their relationship with each other changed? How has their relationship with God changed?
- How does God respond? What does he do for them? What does this say about the character of God?

Closing Question and Application:

- Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week?
- Who might you share this with?