

Sermon: In the Beginning: An Advent Story.
Series: Let Earth Receive Her King.

Scripture: Genesis 3:15
Date: December 1, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Read Genesis 3:1-13. How would you say pride and the knowledge of good and evil are connected? OR...how does living from the knowledge of good and evil make us proud and judgmental (see also Romans 2:1)?

b) In the sermon we distinguished the conflict between good and evil with the conflict between grace and law. Why? Because people aren't divided into "good" and "evil" groups. In reality we are all born evil but with the knowledge of BOTH good and evil. Use Romans 2:14-16 to understand this more. Paul is describing all of us as morally good, yet still guilty. How can we tell that we are still guilty – because our conscience "accuses or excuses" us. Can you identify this internal battle in your own conscience? How has your conscience accused you of sin? Excused your sin (especially your secret sin – v. 16)?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Read Genesis 3:15. What judgment is God making? What promise is God making? Together, what do these two declarations teach us about God?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How does Genesis 3:15 point forward to the cross of Christ? Think about the word "he," and the "crushed heel." Look at Isaiah 53:5-6, 10 together. Why did God "crush" Jesus? How does Christ's crushing make us the offspring of God?

APPLICATION

a) Genesis 3 explains how all conflict is rooted in our knowledge of good and evil and our desire to be self-righteous and god-like. Think about a recent conflict you have been involved in. In what way has your self-righteousness made things worse? How can living from grace and showing grace make things better in this specific conflict?

b) Read Romans 12:9. How does our union with Christ's victory over sin and death allow us to approach good and evil from a whole new perspective? In what way is "genuine love" the key? How does God's genuine love for us allow us to hate evil and hold fast to good without using them to advance ourselves and our own self-righteousness?

PRAYER

- Thank God for his promise of victory over sin and Satan.
- Confess ways that you have used knowledge of good and evil to become self-righteous and judgmental.
- Thank Jesus for being crushed for us so that we might have his victory over sin and Satan.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to hate evil and hold on to good from grace not law.