

Satan's Biggest Lie

Genesis 3:1-5 – NIV - The Temptation and Fall of Man

3 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.”

Obviously, the Scriptures we have read this morning records events that occurred at some point **after the creation of the Earth**

- Adam and Eve were still living in **the Garden of Eden**
- **Paradise** still existed
- **Peace and tranquility** still reigned
- The **dispensation of innocence** was still in effect...

But, the **scene of tranquility** was about to be **shattered by an invasion of enemy forces** never before faced by humanity.

Sin was approaching the door of **the human heart!!!**

- ♣ **Sin did not** come dressed in **the disguise of a murderer**
- ♣ **It did not** come under **the cloak of alcohol or drugs**
- ♣ **It did not** approach Eve in **the form of a rapist**
- ♣ **Pornography** did not walk up to the door of Eve’s heart
- ♣ **Sin did not** knock on **the door of her heart** dressed like an **adulterous lover**, trying to **incite her lust** and cause her **to commit adultery**

Though **Eve dealt with** the **physical form** of a **serpent**, this **was not even the true form** that approached **the door of her heart**

No, **Sin** came in **the very clever** and **deceiving form** of — **a lie**

It did not seem to be such a big deal!!!!

- The lie didn't seem to be a really **big lie**
- Just a slight **twisting or misrepresentation of the truth**
- What some people today call '**a little white lie**'
- Even **the lie itself** was **cloaked within another lie**

At this point, please allow me to share **two passages of Scripture** with you

Proverbs 6:16-17 – NIV – Don't be foolish!!! The Wicked Man!!!!

¹⁶ There are six things **the LORD hates**, seven that are **detestable to him**:

¹⁷ haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**.....

Revelation 21:27 - NKJV

²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination **or a lie**, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Notice that it is an **abomination to God** for **his creation to lie**, meaning that God finds **lying to be disgusting and detestable**

Let me share another verse of scripture with you...

Revelation 21:8 - NKJV

⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, **and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone**, which is the second death."

Obviously, God **does not** have any use for **lies**, **lying**, or **liars**.....

*The great liar

It is no great secret that **Satan is a liar**

- If Satan were to come up to anyone of us in **a recognizable form** we **would not listen to anything he had to say** - **Why????????????**
- Because we are aware that **he is a liar** and **cannot be trusted** to speak truth
- Scripture states that **he is a liar and the father of all lies**.

Note the words of Jesus in - to The Pharisees

John 8:44 - NKJV

⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, **for he is a liar and the father of it.**

The **New Living Translation** renders this same verse as follows:

⁴⁴ For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan's character **has not** changed since the beginning...

- ***He was a liar*** in the garden of Eden and ***he is still a liar today***
- The other factor to consider is that ***neither will his character change in the future...***

In other words **'he is what he is and he is not going to change'**

While every lie, regardless of content or intensity ***is still a lie*** and ***therefore sin***, there is **one lie that Satan has told** that is unequivocally **the biggest lie** ever told!

Satan's biggest lie

Let's look at **exactly what Satan said to eve** in the garden of Eden.

Eve encountered the serpent - Follow the time frame –

- **Eve** talked to the serpent and ate of the fruit
- **Eve** took the fruit, found Adam and persuaded him to eat
- **Realization dawned upon them** – ***realizing they had sinned*** they sought to cover themselves, they sewed fig leaves together to **cover their nakedness**.

God came walking through the garden in the cool of the evening...

Satan told Eve –

“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

INTERPRETATION: ‘Didn’t God say you could eat of every tree of the garden?’

Notice what Eve answered – Genesis 3

“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.’”

Satan then told Eve –

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.”

You won’t die!

God just knows that when you eat of this you are going to become much smarter and more like He is, understanding what is good and what is evil

Here we find the lies Satan begins to tell

God had told Adam and Eve not to eat that particular fruit because they would die if they did.

- God was speaking of **a premature death** – earlier than he intended
- **When Satan spoke to Eve**, he stated that **she would not die** from eating the fruit meaning there would be **no immediate death**

Here we find lie number one –

Satan twisting what God had stated and saying that God had lied.

Satan made it seem that the reason ***God did not want*** Adam and Eve to eat that particular fruit is **because it would elevate them** to a higher spiritual plane.

Here is the second lie -

Satan portrayed God as being jealous of man's possible spiritual elevation.

- But neither of these lies comprise Satan's biggest lie...
- Satan was far too subtle and devious to blatantly state *his biggest lie*...

The biggest lie of Satan, that began in the garden of Eden as he spoke to eve, *was an insinuation rather than a blatant spoken word*

The biggest lie Satan ever told was - - - - -

What God said is not relevant and really does not matter — do whatever you want to do.

He perpetrated that lie in the beginning and he is still using the same lie today!!!

Show people what the Word of God says regarding particular issues of salvation, holiness, Christian living or whatever and *the usual answer will be* -

- *That does not pertain to us today – it isn't relevant to us.'* – OR.....
- *The Bible doesn't really mean that* – OR....
- *God won't send someone to hell because of that*.....

Look closely at what we have seen this morning and understand that Satan is still using the same lie that he began with in the garden...

Why does he not change?

- Because it still works!!!!!!!
- *If it ain't broke don't fix it!*

Jesus Is still the answer -

Now let's look at the reality of the situation -

During Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, at the end of his forty-day fast, Satan tempted him to turn some stones into bread that he might break his fast and eat.

Jesus responded by saying –

Matthew 4:4 - NIV

⁴ Jesus answered, “**It is written:** ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, **but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**’

- Jesus was quoting from the Old Testament book of **Deuteronomy 8:3**

Some believe that everything that is **in the Old Testament is irrelevant** to the church today.

But Jesus quoted the Old Testament and stated that **man had to live by** every word that comes from the mouth of God

The apostle Paul stated, in his second letter to Timothy –

2 Timothy 3:16 - NIV

¹⁶ **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful** for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

- KJV - Inspiration literally means – **‘God breathed’**

Therefore, we can conclude that when someone says that **a certain portion of the Bible is irrelevant** to us today, they have been **listening to Satan's biggest lie!**

CLOSE: The message that I have come to preach today is simply this –

It does matter what you believe!

- It is not a matter of **just simply believing** and being saved -
- Rather, **you have to believe the right thing.**

Satan will try to persuade you that **doctrine or teaching is not important**

He will try to make you think that you can believe **the way you want to believe**

But the fact of the matter is **that line of thinking is nothing more than a lie from the pits of hell**

- It **does** matter to God what you believe!!!
- It **does** matter to your salvation what you believe!!!

Why does Satan tempt us?

Temptation is Satan's invitation to give in to his kind of life and give up on God's kind of life!

- Satan tempted Eve and succeeded in getting her to Sin.
- Ever since then, he's been busy getting people to sin.

The serpent, Satan, tempted Eve by getting her to doubt God's word then his goodness.

- Satan made Eve forget all that God had given her and, instead, focus on what God had forbidden.
- We to fall into trouble when we dwell on what God forbids.
- Rather, count our blessings and promises he has given us.

How could Eve have resisted temptation?

- By following the same guidelines, we can follow!
- First, we must realize that being tempted IS NOT a sin!
- We have NOT sinned until we give in to the temptation!

To resist temptation, we must:

1. Pray for strength to resist,
2. Run (sometimes literally),
3. Say NO when confronted with what we know is wrong,
4. Hold on firmly to God's Word.

James 1:12 - *Loving God Under Trials* - ¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

- Blessings and rewards for those who don't give in when tempted.
- Every time we resist temptation, We become more like Jesus!!!

Self-exaltation leads to rebellion against God!

- As soon as we begin to leave God out of our plans, we are placing ourselves above him.
- This is exactly what Satan wants us to do....