



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: How We Got Here: Origin Stories of Brokenness and Redemption

Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-20

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’?”

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

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When 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. Then 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.

Then 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. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

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

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

The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.
And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”

To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.
It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

Sermon Outline:

- Origin stories help us to understand how we got to be in our present reality.
- Genesis 3 is the story of our refusal to receive and our tendency to grasp. Sin enters the world because of our failure to receive, and we live our lives grasping.
- Reasons we have difficulty receiving: don't want to appear weak, vulnerable, don't deserve to receive, too busy to receive, afraid of being put in another's debt. Reciprocity problem -- gift given is based on size or value of gift received.
- Adam and Eve's story is our story. Every time we grasp, we deepen our disconnection with God and with each other.
- Two ways of grasping. First way of grasping is a manifestation of greed and power. Second way of grasping is a manifestation of fear. First way is an aggressive grasping and the second is an anxious grasping. Either way, this is not what God intended.
- Why do we grasp aggressively or anxiously? We have been made to believe that God can't be trusted.
- If you are struggling with thinking God doesn't love you, think about Jesus. We gather together in worship, in church, in small group to remind each other that God doesn't hold back from us. God can be trusted and we are invited to live from a place of receiving, a place of freedom.
- Genesis ends with Adam and Eve being banned from the garden, but the story does not end there. The rest of the Bible is the story of God trying to make things right with His people.
- In the garden, Adam refuses to do God's will, hides behind a tree, is naked and overwhelmed by shame. Jesus returns to the scene of the crime in another garden. He does God's will, hangs on a tree, is naked and conquers shame. Jesus gift of giving of Himself is a great reversal of Adam and Eve's sin. Jesus gives of Himself so that we can live lives of giving and not endless grasping.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Pastor Rich discusses how Adam and Eve's story of refusing to receive from God is our story and Pastor Rich also explores how Jesus frees us from living a life of endless grasping to one of receiving.

Sermon Questions

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, how was gift giving done in your family? Were there unspoken expectations placed on you when you received a "gift" such as money to spend for a special treat, permission to go somewhere or do something, more time to do an activity, etc.?
3. What thoughts and feelings come up for you if someone does something nice for you out of the blue? What thoughts and feelings come up for you surrounding giving and receiving gifts?
4. How do you hear the words that God can be trusted?
5. What obstacles or challenges are you facing that may be making it difficult for you to receive?
6. What are one or two areas of your life where God may be leading you to loosen your grasp?
7. What may be one thing that God is asking you to patiently wait to receive?
8. What may God be asking you to freely give away?