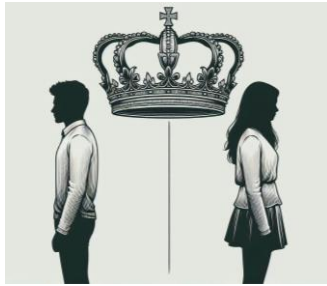


The Fall – God’s family rejects him



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 labour you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

¹*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. The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

~ Genesis 3 ~

No one of us like it when other people reject us and don't listen to us. It is rude and it is hurtful.

But the truth is, as humans we have all rejected God and his way of living. Even though God made us and a wonderful world for us to live in, we have all rejected to him and at times have not lived the way he has told us to.

We have word for this; we call it sin.

Adam and Eve, the very first humans, brought sin into the human world when they listened to the serpent and ate the fruit that God had told them not to eat. They rejected God and his perfect way of living life.

And because of sin, all the relationships in God's good world were broken. Humans fought amongst humans. The rest of creation started to go against humans at time.

But worst of all, the relationship between God and humans was broken. And there was nothing that humans could do to fix it up. This meant that humans could no longer be part of God's forever family.

And ever since Adam and Eve, all humans have sinned. So that means that no humans can be part of God's forever family.

This is the saddest news of all time!

But God loves humans, and he wants all humans everywhere to be part of his family. And he always had a plan to do something that would make it possible for them to be part of his forever family again!

Do you know what that plan was?

Some questions to think about:

1. Why was it so bad that Adam and Eve ate the fruit that the serpent told them to?
2. What do we call it when someone rejects God and doesn't live his perfect way?
3. How are we all like Adam and Eve?
4. How do you feel knowing that God always had a plan to do something that would make it possible for humans to be part of his forever family again?

Prayer

Dear God,

We are sorry that sometimes we reject you and don't live your perfect way. We are sorry that when we do that we break our relationships between each other, other parts of creation, and most importantly you. Please forgive us. Thank you that you always had a plan to do something that would make it possible for humans to be part of his forever family again.

Amen.