

“The Strategy of Satan”

Genesis 3:1-6

Introduction

Satan is a deceiver. In Genesis 3:1, he camouflaged himself so that Eve would not recognize him. He came to her as a serpent. He also disguised himself and his purposes by talking to Eve about God. Satan’s intention however was of course not to lead Eve towards the intent of God’s Word, but to entice her away. He used religion as a camouflage to get her to pay attention.

When we believe the deceptive pronouncements of Satan we fall prey to sin and its consequences. Satan told Eve that she would not die. He directly contradicted God’s Word. He made a serious pronouncement that God had deceived both Adam and Eve and lied to them. He planted the idea in Eve’s heart and mind that God could not be trusted.

Eve adopted the deceptive perspective of Satan. Satan sought to convince Eve that God only had a goal of keeping her and Adam from becoming all-knowing and all powerful like Him. Satan made the tree in the garden seem like a good object God was keeping from them instead of something God was protecting them from. Unfortunately, Eve believed Satan’s deception. Satan led Eve to think more highly of herself and her own reasoning than the wisdom of God. This is the same perspective Satan had when he rebelled against God and he has been using deception as a tool to distract and destroy people since the beginning.

Christians need to understand that if we fall for the deceptive schemes of Satan, and like him rebel against the God’s Word, we sin against God – and there are always consequences for sin.

Getting Started

1. Take a few minutes to talk with your group about the end of summer and the transition into the fall season. What are you looking forward to in the upcoming months? Are you facing transitions of any kind?
2. What resonated with you most from today’s sermon?

Let’s Get Personal

1. Have you ever felt deceived by lies of the enemy? Have you ever experienced the enemy or his lies presenting themselves in a camouflaged way? Share with your group.
2. What do you think might have helped you not to be deceived by the enemy’s lies?
3. What are you doing to currently stand fast against the deceitful attacks of Satan?

Take the Next Step

1. Do you struggle with the belief that God is withholding His best from you? Why or why not? How has this affected the decisions you make?
2. After hearing today’s sermon, what do you believe about God? How should those beliefs affect your choices going forward?
3. How can your group pray for you in light of your beliefs? An important part of community life is accountability. How can your group hold you accountable to decisions you need to make or the actions that you need to take this week.
4. Want to dig deeper? Read and discuss these verses: John 8:44, Genesis 4:1-26, Genesis 6:1-7, 2 Corinthians 11:3, and 2 John 7

Renew Your Mind

*“So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,
by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him.”
Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a*
