



## Genesis 3.1-24

Sometimes I wonder if I could have done it better. You know, if God made me first and not those other people, the ones who messed it up for everyone else. Surely I would have paused before I listened to a talking serpent. If you heard a talking snake would you sit there and have a conversation with it? Not me. I'd high-tail it out of there. In my mind, no good things ever come from snakes. Period. If God told me not to eat something, you better believe I'd listen. There is no way I would make the same mistake. I would know better. I would do better. I would be different. I wouldn't leave people with the wreckage of my mistakes, leave it for them to experience pain and suffering I created by my own short-sighted and self-centered thinking.

Then, again, maybe I would. Maybe I would because I see the same leanings in myself, leanings toward doubting God, mistrusting that He really has the best life for me. That desire for autonomy, the desire to be my own God? It's there, right next to my short-sightedness and self-centeredness. Oh, and as far as wreckage goes. . . I have created and continue to create my fair share, and I happily dole it out freely for others to endure. You know. Maybe I wouldn't have done anything different after all. It seems that I, like those first people, am incapable of living, living as God intended. I simply can't handle freedom, at least not on my own. Given a choice between trusting God and mistrusting, I often choose mistrust. Autonomy and dependence? Hands down, autonomy almost every time. There is something about exercising freedom that seems to lead me away from God rather than to Him, a leading that creates a whole lot of brokenness. But what if I never was intended to do it on my own? What if freedom wasn't something meant to be handled in isolation but rather in connection, connection with God? Could it be different? Maybe. But, it doesn't matter anyway, does it? I mean, it's all messed up, completely broken. Or is it? As I read Genesis 3, I see that, yes, I move away from God. But, interestingly enough, God doesn't move away from me. No. God seems to meet me with grace and provision. Can this grace and provision lead me back, back to life as it was meant to be? I guess we will just have to keep reading the story and find out.

A fellow traveler,

Blake  
Spiritual Formation Pastor

### My Next Step

We encourage you to consider doing the following as a way of handing off faith to your family. . .

- **Talk about the reality of brokenness:** Our children are innocent and naïve, and we long to prolong this state, to protect them from the harshness of the world. However, they see and experience brokenness every day: at school, with friends, from us as their parents. Consider acknowledging the brokenness of the world to your children. You might do this by asking them

how events or experiences look to them and how these events make them feel. Simply acknowledge that what they know inherently is correct. What they see and experience is not the way it is supposed to be. Then follow up with this statement or something similar. "Life can be different if we choose to let God be in charge of our lives."

We encourage you to take one of the following next steps on your faith journey. . .

- **A visual reminder:** In Scripture, God often used objects to teach people, visual reminders of deeper truths. This week consider placing something that is broken in a place that you will see it each day. This could be a broken dish, or toy. You might consider purchasing an inexpensive dish at a thrift store and breaking it. Next to these broken pieces consider placing a tube of glue. As you pass by these objects, be reminded that life as we know it is broken (the broken pieces). We have broken it. However, offer a prayer to God that He would show you the path to putting the pieces back together again (the glue).